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1 EASTERN INTERIOR REGIONAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 VOLUME I

5  
6  
7 Circle Hot Springs, Alaska  
8 February 25, 2002  
9 1:30 o'clock p.m.

10  
11 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

12  
13 Sue Entsminger  
14 Allen Stevens  
15 Virgil Umphenour  
16 Tricia Waggoner  
17  
18 Regional Coordinator, Donald Mike (ACTING CHAIR)

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 (Circle Hot Springs - 2/25/2002)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN MIKE: I'll go ahead and call  
8 this meeting to order. I'll leave it up to the Council  
9 if they want to assign a Chair since we have seven  
10 members and we have four members present for a quorum.  
11 What is the wish of the Council?

12

13 MR. STEVENS: Does it have to be the  
14 members to be the Chair because you're doing a fine job.

15

16 CHAIRMAN MIKE: No, it doesn't.

17

18 MS. ENTSMINGER: Do you need a motion on  
19 it or we'll appoint you?

20

21 CHAIRMAN MIKE: If you want to do a  
22 motion we can go ahead and do that or I can go ahead and  
23 run the meeting.

24

25 MR. STEVENS: I think since three out of  
26 the four of us are new and actually Virgil is new to the  
27 Board it probably would be a good idea if you Chair'd it  
28 to begin with.

29

30 CHAIRMAN MIKE: I'll go ahead and call  
31 the meeting to order. And just for the Council, when Jim  
32 Wilde shows up I think I'll give the option to Jim Wilde  
33 if he wants to Chair the meeting. So in the meantime  
34 I'll go ahead and run the meeting.

35

36 The first item on the agenda is call the  
37 meeting to order. Call the meeting to order. We'll have  
38 an invocation by Paul Williams.

39

40 MR. WILLIAMS: (Invocation)

41

42 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you, Paul. The  
43 next item on the agenda is we're going to have opening  
44 remarks from Larry Nathaniel. He's from Circle and he's  
45 also on the Advisory Committee. Paul, if you could come  
46 up here to the table and give your opening remarks.

47

48 MR. NATHANIEL: Thank you, Donald and the  
49 rest of the committee members and all the agencies and  
50 the people that are gathered here.

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1 I was invited to do opening remarks by  
2 Donald just last week. And he asked me if I would be  
3 available and I hesitated for awhile, not that I didn't  
4 want to it's just I had to look at my calendar and see if  
5 I was available and I said, yes, I would. And then I  
6 went to Fairbanks over the weekend and coming back  
7 yesterday and this morning I woke up and I said, oh,  
8 geez, I got to be at Hot Springs to give an opening  
9 remark, what am I going to say, what am I going to do,  
10 what am I going to talk about? Well, I formulated a plan  
11 out here and now when I got up here and now I'm nervous  
12 and I forgot what to say.

13

14 That kind of reminds me of what Reverend  
15 Titus Peter had said in that little saying is on the door  
16 of the Executive Director of Safety in Fort Yukon, he  
17 wrote, it's not that I forgot that I had to make a report  
18 it's just that it worries me that I forgot what I was  
19 supposed to report on.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 Well, basically I'm not going to make any  
24 kind of report it's just an opening statement of the  
25 critical issue that we face today of the shortage of  
26 moose and game animals in our country. When I say, our  
27 country, that means it encompasses all of Alaska,  
28 possibly even the Lower 48. But the issue now is in the  
29 state of Alaska where moose population is low. I guess  
30 most of you are well aware that Yukon Flats have  
31 formulated a moose planning committee and we've been  
32 working on that very issue. That topic will be talked  
33 about tomorrow here during one of the afternoon sessions  
34 or early morning. And Randy wanted me to convey some  
35 messages to people that were going to attend the public  
36 meeting scheduled for moose management, that will be  
37 tomorrow at 5:00 o'clock in Circle in the Council office.  
38 There, we'll be taking public comments and people's input  
39 on the moose management plan that we're formulating for  
40 the Yukon Flats. You know, like I said we've got a  
41 critical issue of moose population, how best to go about  
42 the management of moose and how to increase the moose  
43 population.

44

45 You know, being responsible and creative  
46 people, I know we can come together and work out a  
47 formula, at least, a resolution of some sort to move  
48 forward in that direction of increasing the wildlife  
49 population within our region, the state and even across  
50 nations, if that's possible.

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1                   You know, too many times, being people,  
2 we rely on courts to solve our problems. You know courts  
3 are only part of the process. And I wrote down what I  
4 was going to say and then I forgot, you know. So when  
5 dispute arises, you know, it's settled in a healthy and a  
6 creative way. Not only is peace restored to the parties,  
7 the community, the tribe or the nation, but the lessons  
8 learned in participating and the process of healing may  
9 also perpetuate from generation to generation.

10

11                   And I also wrote down where I read  
12 somewhere where it said, collective minds can accomplish  
13 great things but unanimous minds can accomplish all great  
14 things.

15

16                   I think that's something that we should  
17 keep in mind as we move forward to working on our fish  
18 and game problems, wherever they may arise, you know, we  
19 have to come together collectively and work on it. Not  
20 one agency here and one here and user groups over here  
21 trying to work out a problem individually, we need to be  
22 collective like we are here today as we talk about  
23 resolutions and the opportunity to testify or make  
24 comments here and we need a lot of input, you know.  
25 Somebody else at a different meeting once said there's no  
26 such thing as stupid questions. If you don't know the  
27 answer ask. You know, and I think we need to all come  
28 together and work on this issue.

29

30                   One of the first things that we've done  
31 in the moose management planning committee is we had  
32 several meetings in different villages where we educate  
33 people about not harvesting cow moose out of season, try  
34 to get bull moose only. And we also ask for input from  
35 the elders; what they saw in the past what they see now,  
36 the difference, you know, their different style being  
37 back when they were younger people, like most of us are,  
38 of what they see. There was plenty game with sound  
39 management. I think the management is really getting out  
40 of hand, people wanting to take the lead and doing it and  
41 other people saying, no, we should do it this way or we  
42 should do it that way. But like I said, with collective  
43 minds anything is possible.

44

45                   And also we try to educate people to the  
46 ceremonial potlatches, when they gather, make sure that  
47 they get only bull moose if it's possible, you know, and  
48 also keep track of the activities of the wolves and the  
49 bears, the bears are also big predators of the -- and  
50 moose population also. Those are the kinds of things

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1 that we need to do.

2

3 I know there's a bunch of proposals that  
4 we're submitting to the Board of Game at this coming  
5 spring meeting. But those are just tentative proposals  
6 for now. And I talked to Randy just this morning and he  
7 said we're putting together a teleconference to get more  
8 input on the proposals that we will be bringing forward  
9 at the spring meeting there in Fairbanks.

10

11 So with that, I appreciate you all being  
12 here and trying to work out some sort of resolution in  
13 increasing the wildlife habitat in the state of Alaska,  
14 and I thank you.

15

16 (Applause)

17

18 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you, Larry. Just a  
19 few housekeeping items. When you come up to testify or  
20 present an analysis, please state your name and which  
21 agency you represent for our records. And our gracious  
22 host, Laverna Miller, told me that during lunch and  
23 dinner she'll set up a buffet style set up in the back  
24 room and then she'll have a table set up in the bar area  
25 so people can have a place to sit down and eat and we can  
26 just leave this room for the meeting for the next couple  
27 of days. So that's the word I got for Laverna Miller.

28

29 Next item on our agenda is roll call and  
30 establishing a quorum. I'll do roll call Gerald  
31 Nicholia. Craig Fleener. Allen Stevens.

32

33 MR. STEVENS: Here.

34

35 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Sue Entsminger.

36

37 MS. ENTSMINGER: Here.

38

39 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Jim Wilde. Tricia  
40 Waggoner.

41

42 MS. WAGGONER: Here.

43

44 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Virgil Umphenour.

45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Here.

47

48 CHAIRMAN MIKE: We have a quorum of four.  
49 One thing I forgot this morning in our work session for  
50 our new Council members, usually we will have an

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1 introduction of the Council members and a brief sharing  
2 of concerns by the Council members and I'll leave that  
3 option for each Council member. So we'll start with Jay  
4 Stevens, can you introduce yourself and where you're  
5 from.

6

7 MR. STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good  
8 afternoon everybody. My name is Allen Stevens. I work  
9 for the Stevens Village Natural Resource Program in  
10 Stevens Village. I've been through this process a couple  
11 of times with a couple different proposals and kind of  
12 saw the need to be part of this whole process. It took  
13 over a year for my application to go through but it  
14 eventually did and, boy, I guess there's four new members  
15 here, that's going to make for a challenging day. So  
16 you'll have to be patient, be patient with us. Three of  
17 us are completely new. Virgil, I believe, is part of a  
18 couple other councils or what not, but this is going to  
19 be a learning process for me and I'm glad to be here.

20

21 Thanks.

22

23 MS. ENTSMINGER: My name is Sue  
24 Entsminger. I'm not really from Tok. I'm from closer to  
25 Mentasta Village. I have a lot of friends and adopted  
26 family in Mentasta Village and I've been in the area 25  
27 years. I actually served on a Fish and Game Advisory  
28 Committee in the Slana area for nine years in the 80s and  
29 I also served on a guide board, for the registered guides  
30 in Alaska for two years as a public member and I served  
31 on the Alaska Game Board for three years after that.  
32 That was like '91 through '96.

33

34 And I guess my concerns as a non-Native  
35 is to see the people of Alaska, the hunters, the people  
36 of the resource to get together and come together on the  
37 issues and work things out and not be at conflict.  
38 Because I think in the end the animal rights people are  
39 the ones that will win and we will lose. So that would  
40 be my biggest issue here.

41

42 MS. WAGGONER: My name's Tricia Waggoner  
43 and I live in Tok. Actually I live out by Tanacross so  
44 Sue and I are quite a ways apart by road. I've been  
45 there for two years and prior to that I worked with the  
46 10 villages in the Yukon Flats and now I work for the  
47 Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council and I work  
48 with the tribes up and down the river. But I'm here  
49 personally for my concerns of maintaining hunting and  
50 fishing for my family and my kids. And I just have

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1 concerns to seasons and bag limits and I think this is  
2 the way to work on those issues and I'm glad to be here.

3

4 MR. UMPHENOUR: My name is Virgil  
5 Umphenour. I live in Fairbanks. I've lived there --  
6 well, North Pole, 31 years. I'm a big game guide. I own  
7 a meat and fish processing facility in Fairbanks. I  
8 served in the treaty process for the salmon treaty with  
9 Canada from 1988 to present. I've been on the Alaska  
10 Board of Fisheries almost eight years, this July will  
11 make eight years. I was one of the YRDFA, which is Yukon  
12 River Drainage Fisheries Association was first formed in  
13 1990, I was the co-Chair until I was appointed at the  
14 Board of Fisheries. My primary reason for wanting to  
15 serve on the RAC was I have a broad background in dealing  
16 with both fish and game resources throughout the state,  
17 or the northern part of the state anyway and I think I  
18 can, maybe lend a little bit different perspective on how  
19 people can work together to accomplish our mission, which  
20 is conservation and orderly development and use of our  
21 fish and game resources.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN MIKE: I guess since I'm the  
26 acting Chair, I'll introduce myself. My name is Donald  
27 Mike, I'm the coordinator for the Eastern Interior  
28 Regional Advisory Council. This is my second year with  
29 the Office of Subsistence Management. Prior to coming to  
30 the Office of Subsistence Management, I worked for the  
31 National Park Service for 10 years. It's been a  
32 challenge trying to get Council members together but we  
33 have finally got the full membership, hopefully by next  
34 fall we'll have a full nine board member. And I look  
35 forward to meeting with the new Council members and the  
36 remaining existing Council members and I think they're  
37 doing a good job in the issues of the local subsistence  
38 users..

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MR. DeMATTEO: My name's Pete DeMatteo.  
43 I'm a wildlife biologist for the Interior Regional teams.  
44 I work with the Office of Subsistence Management out of  
45 Anchorage.

46

47 MR. SHERROD: Hi, I'm George Sherrod.  
48 I'm the anthropologist with the Eastern and Western  
49 Interior teams. My office is in Fairbanks.

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1 CHAIRMAN MIKE: I think maybe I'll start  
2 with introductions in the back, towards the back and then  
3 we can move our way forward. Thank you.

4  
5 MR. GERHARD: I'm Bob Gerhard. I'm with  
6 the National Park Service and I work in Anchorage.

7  
8 MS. SHARP: I'm Devi Sharp. I'm from  
9 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

10  
11 MR. NATHANIEL: I already mentioned my  
12 name earlier, I'm Larry Nathaniel, Chief of Circle  
13 Village.

14  
15 MS. MCSWEENEY: I'm Ingrid McSweeney from  
16 Bureau of Land Management, Northern Field Office.

17  
18 MS. FRIEND: Hello, I'm Connie Friend from  
19 Tetlin Wildlife Refuge.

20  
21 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA  
22 Staff Committee member for the Federal Subsistence Board.

23  
24 MR. JENNINGS: Good afternoon. My name  
25 is Tim Jennings. I'm with the Office of Subsistence  
26 Management. I'm a Division Chief in Anchorage.

27  
28 MR. RIVARD: My name is Don Rivard. I'm  
29 also a Division Chief with the Office of Subsistence  
30 Management. And I'm the Division Chief for this region.

31  
32 MR. SCHLEUSNER: My name is Cliff  
33 Schleusner. I also work for the Office of Subsistence  
34 Management in the Fisheries Information Services. I'm a  
35 fisheries biologist.

36  
37 MR. WISWAR: My name is David Wiswar.  
38 I'm a fisheries biologist for Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife  
39 Service.

40  
41 MR. LaPLANT: Good afternoon. My name is  
42 Dan La Plant. I work for the Office of Subsistence  
43 Management also. I am the liaison for the Subsistence  
44 Office with the Alaska Board of Game.

45  
46 MR. WHEELER: Good afternoon. I'm Gary  
47 Wheeler, Assistant Refuge Manager for the Arctic National  
48 Wildlife Refuge.

49  
50 MR. BROWN: Wennona Brown, subsistence



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1 coordinator for the Yukon Flats and Arctic National  
2 Wildlife Refuge.

3

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Paul Williams from Beaver  
5 and with the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. I'm  
6 an RIT.

7

8 MR. KNULL: I'm Roy Knull and I'm with  
9 ADF&G in Fairbanks. I'm the management coordinator for  
10 the Interior.

11

12 MR. SIMMONS: I'm Rod Simmons with Fish  
13 and Wildlife Service and serve on the Inter-Agency Staff  
14 Committee for the Federal Subsistence Board.

15

16 MR. ANDERSON: I'm Fred Anderson. I'm  
17 with National Park Service in Fairbanks. I'm a fisheries  
18 biologist.

19

20 MR. EASTLAND: I'm Warren Eastland. I'm  
21 with the BIA. I'm a wildlife biologist from Juneau.

22

23 MS. KLEIN: I'm Jill Klein. I work with  
24 the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association in  
25 Anchorage.

26

27 MS. GRONQUIST: Ruth Gronquist with BLM  
28 in Fairbanks.

29

30 MR. HAYNES: Terry Haynes. Department of  
31 Fish and Game, Subsistence Division and also a member of  
32 the State's liaison team to the Federal Subsistence  
33 Board.

34

35 MR. GARDNER: Craig Gardner, the area  
36 biologist in Tok. Fish and Game.

37

38 MR. CEGELSKE: Gary Cegelske, Fish and  
39 Wildlife Service Law Enforcement.

40

41 MR. BRELSFORD: Hi. I'm Taylor  
42 Brelsford. I work with the BLM on the Inter-Agency Staff  
43 Committee.

44

45 MS. HAMFLER: Hi. My name is Cindy  
46 Hamfler. I'm working with BLM in the Northern Field  
47 Office.

48

49 MR. HEUER: Hi. I'm Ted Heuer. I'm the  
50 Refuge Manager of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife

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1 Refuge.

2

3 MR. ADAMS: My name's Jeff Adams. I'm  
4 the acting project leader at the Fish and Wildlife  
5 Service, Fairbanks Fishery Office.

6

7 MR. HOLDER: Russ Holder, Fish and  
8 Wildlife Service working with Yukon River In-season  
9 salmon management.

10

11 MR. BONDRA: I'm Brian Bondra and I live  
12 here in Central.

13

14 (Applause)

15

16 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Are you the public?

17

18 MR. BONDRA: Yeah, I'm the public.

19

20 MR. BERG: Jerry Berg. I'm a fishery  
21 biologist for the Kuskokwim area for the Office of  
22 Subsistence Management.

23

24 MR. KRON: Tom Kron, Interior Team,  
25 Office of Subsistence Management.

26

27 MR. NED: Stanley Ned, Tanana Chiefs.

28

29 MR. HANDER: Ray Hander with the Fairbanks  
30 Fishery Office and also the Yukon River In-season Fishery  
31 -- subsistence fishery management.

32

33 REPORTER: My name is Tina and I'm the  
34 court reporter for the day.

35

36 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you. The next  
37 agenda item will be to review and adopt the agenda.  
38 Council members, you got anything to add or amend to the  
39 agenda?

40

41 MR. STEVENS: I'll make a motion to  
42 approve the agenda.

43

44 MS. ENTSMINGER: I'll second it.

45

46 CHAIRMAN MIKE: A motion has been made by  
47 Allen Stevens to adopt the agenda as written. All in  
48 favor signify by saying aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

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1                   CHAIRMAN MIKE: All those opposed, same  
2 sign.

3  
4                   (No opposing votes)

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN MIKE: The agenda's been  
7 approved. The next item on the agenda is to approve the  
8 minutes for the October 9 through 11th, 2001 Anchorage  
9 meeting. Our four new members here, you weren't at our  
10 last Council meeting but a month and a half ago I sent  
11 you the draft minutes so what is the wish of the Council?  
12 The minutes can be found in Tab B of your Council books.

13  
14                  MS. WAGGONER: I think we should table it  
15 until, at least, Jim and possibly Gerald here.

16  
17                  MS. ENTSMINGER: Good idea.

18  
19                  CHAIRMAN MIKE: Okay, we can table it  
20 until Jim or Gerald arrives and then we'll go over the  
21 minutes. The next item will be the proposal review and  
22 recommendation. I'll briefly introduce the wildlife  
23 proposal and we'll have Staff present the analysis.  
24 Pete.

25  
26                  For the Council, would you prefer until  
27 Jim Wilde shows up and then go over the wildlife  
28 proposals or do you want to go ahead and go ahead. These  
29 wildlife proposals require action by the Council for  
30 recommendation. We can go over the proposals or go next  
31 with the informational items. It's up to the Council.

32  
33                  MS. WAGGONER: There's some people here,  
34 I know, that are leaving today -- some of the Staff that  
35 have to deal with proposals, I'd recommend them first.

36  
37                  CHAIRMAN MIKE: So you want to go ahead  
38 with the wildlife proposals, is that what you're saying,  
39 Tricia?

40  
41                  MS. WAGGONER: (Shakes head negatively)

42  
43                  MS. ENTSMINGER: Is that what you were  
44 saying?

45  
46                  MS. WAGGONER: No. But I was just saying  
47 I know that there's going to be wildlife proposals, it  
48 depends on when Jim gets here, but we do have some people  
49 that are leaving today that I'm sure that we'll want to  
50 talk to about some of these proposals.

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1 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Virgil.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Do we have any idea how  
4 long it will be before he gets here?

5

6 CHAIRMAN MIKE: I spoke with Jim Wilde's  
7 wife this morning and she stated to me that Jim was on  
8 his way from Fairbanks, on his way to Circle Hot Springs.  
9 And he was supposed to be here by now, so I don't know  
10 what the situation is. I tried calling his home prior to  
11 1:30 but there was no answer.

12

13 MS. ENTSMINGER: Maybe we could find out  
14 who has to leave here today and, I mean, we don't have to  
15 take action, we could listen to everything and we would  
16 all be informed and that person is still here and take up  
17 the proposals and make decisions on them after they get  
18 here.

19

20 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Okay, we can do that. Is  
21 the rest of the Council okay with that?

22

23 (Council Nods Affirmatively)

24

25 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Pete.

26

27 MR. DeMATTEO: Members of the Council,  
28 Proposal 42, or at least the analysis of 42 is in your  
29 book under Tab C, as in Charley and it's on Page 4 -- it  
30 begins on Page 4. Proposal 42.

31

32 MR. SHERROD: I thought they were just  
33 going to hear testimony.

34

35 MR. DeMATTEO: What do you want to do?

36

37 MR. SHERROD: Didn't you just want to  
38 hear testimony from those people who were going to leave  
39 and then deal with procedurally with proposals later on?

40

41 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes, uh-huh.

42

43 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Okay. I haven't received  
44 any blue forms from the public to give testimony on any  
45 specific proposals.

46

47 MS. ENTSMINGER: I think there's still  
48 confusion. What I was staying is, I understand -- at  
49 least I know Craig Gardner is going to have to leave  
50 today and he has a specific proposal that he's dealing

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1 with and if there's anyone else that has to leave I'd  
2 like to have them give their report before they'd have to  
3 leave.

4

5 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Okay. Craig Gardner, are  
6 you going to be commenting on Proposal 42; is that right?

7

8 MR. GARDNER: 42 and 43, I mean you could  
9 actually start with how Pete was going to do it, we'll  
10 have ample time and you could get the whole picture that  
11 way. Because I'm not going to leave until 4:00.

12

13 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay.

14

15 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Council, is that what you  
16 want to do? We can move to -- we can skip over to Fish  
17 and Wildlife issues and get some briefing from our Office  
18 of Subsistence Management Office. I would propose that  
19 we get into the briefing, streamlining Federal Fisheries  
20 In-Season Special Actions. What's the rest of the  
21 Council think about that strategy.

22

23 MS. WAGGONER: What's that?

24

25 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Item No. 9.

26

27 MS. WAGGONER: Then come back here when  
28 Jim Wilde gets here.

29

30 CHAIRMAN MIKE: So is the wish of the  
31 Council to get into briefings, we can start with the  
32 streamlining Federal Fisheries In-Season Special Actions  
33 and that would be presented by Rod Simmons. Virgil.

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's fine with me. We  
36 could -- I don't know whether you maybe want to take a 15  
37 minute recess and call and see if the other member is  
38 going to be here pretty quick or not and if he's not then  
39 we could just proceed.

40

41 MS. WAGGONER: Why don't you check again  
42 and see if Jim's going to be here.

43

44 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Okay, Virgil proposed a  
45 15 minute recess until we find out where Jim Wilde is.  
46 So why don't we go ahead and just take 15 minutes.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50 (On record)

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1                   CHAIRMAN MIKE: Okay, we're calling this  
2 meeting back to order. What we're going to be doing is  
3 going through Proposal 42 and 43. And we'll have the  
4 State come up and provide their comments and the Council  
5 will not take any formal action until we get Jim Wilde  
6 and Gerald Nicholia and then the Council will develop  
7 recommendation on 42 and 43. So with that, we'll start  
8 with Proposal 42. Pete DeMatteo, are you going to be  
9 presenting that analysis? Proposal 42 is on Page 1 under  
10 Tab C and Proposal 42 is to increase the harvest quota  
11 for caribou in Unit 20(E). Pete.

12  
13                   MR. DeMATTEO: Members of the Council.  
14 Again, the analysis begins on Page 4 of Tab C. This  
15 proposal was submitted by the Eastern Interior Regional  
16 Advisory Council and the Council requests an increase in  
17 the combined State/Federal harvest quotas for caribou to  
18 coincide with the recent changes in State regulations for  
19 Unit 20(E). The Council also requests the addition of  
20 the following language to current Unit 20(E) regulations.  
21 And you'll find that language at the bottom of Page 4 in  
22 bold italics print. And it reads during the winter  
23 season, area closures or hunt restrictions may be  
24 announced when Nelchina caribou are present and a mix of  
25 more than one Nelchina Caribou Herd animal to 15  
26 Fortymile Caribou Herd animals.

27  
28                   This proposal was coordinated between  
29 this Council, the BLM and the Department of Fish and  
30 Game. The request follows a recent Board of Game action  
31 that would increase the harvest quotas for the Fortymile  
32 Caribou Herd in Unit 20(E). The proposed increase is at  
33 the bottom of the page where you see proposed regulation  
34 for Unit 20(E) for caribou.

35  
36                   The fall season, the current quota is 320  
37 caribou and that would be increased to 355 and that would  
38 match the State regulations for next year. The winter  
39 quota would increase from 210 to 240 caribou and that's a  
40 combination quota for Unit 20(E) and 25(C) remainder.

41  
42                   The Fortymile Caribou Herd, currently its  
43 estimated population is around 39,000 animals. The  
44 increase would comply with the Fortymile Caribou Herd  
45 Management Plan. The Nelchina Caribou Herd which is  
46 smaller is currently estimated at about 34,000 animals.  
47 The Nelchina Herd is stable in some areas and decreasing  
48 in others and there are strong conservation concerns for  
49 that herd. The Fortymile Caribou Herd, as it continues  
50 to increase in numbers and expand its range, what's

00015

1 happening is there's an overlap in the winter ranges of  
2 the Fortymile Caribou Herd and also the Nelchina Caribou  
3 Herd up in 20(E). So in the winter when the caribou herd  
4 -- or caribou season is open there can be inadvertent  
5 harvest of Nelchina animals. In the past, I think two  
6 years ago there was around 50 Nelchina Caribou Herd  
7 animals that were harvested and that was above the  
8 sustainable level. It was an inadvertent harvest. We  
9 tried to shut it down. The State did an emergency order  
10 -- the Federal Board, since it doesn't have an emergency  
11 order action, we had to go through the special action we  
12 laid out for you this morning in the training program,  
13 that process can sometimes take up to a week. In the  
14 meantime the season is still open.

15

16 So to prevent inadvertent harvest or  
17 overharvest, the language you see at the bottom of the  
18 page would be put into regulation. It would allow the  
19 agency, without having to ask the Federal Board  
20 permission, it would allow the agency to shut it down in  
21 concert with the Department of Fish and Game Department,  
22 or if there was just the Federal season open then the  
23 BLM, which is the management agency could shut it down.  
24 And that would be to protect the Nelchina Caribou Herd.

25

26 What determines this, the need to close  
27 it is the mixing ratio between the two herds. The mixing  
28 ratio is achieved -- a determination is achieved by the  
29 Federal and State biologists when they conduct their  
30 aerial surveys. And basically you want to know how many  
31 Nelchina animals are there mixed in with the Fortymile  
32 animals. And basically the ratio that they said is a  
33 threshold is one Nelchina animal to 15 Fortymile Caribou  
34 Herd animals. If there should turn out that there's more  
35 than one Nelchina to 15 Fortymile Caribou Herd animals  
36 then they would shut the season down.

37

38 The Staff preliminary conclusion is to  
39 support the proposal. This would do two things. It  
40 would increase the quota and it would align Federal and  
41 State regulations. It would also increase harvest  
42 opportunity for Federal subsistence users and it would  
43 help overharvest the Nelchina Herd as stated at the  
44 bottom of that page in regulation.

45

46 And that's all I have.

47

48 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you, Pete. We'll  
49 have agency comments. We'll start off with the State.

50

00016

1 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My  
2 name's Terry Haynes with the Department of Fish and Game.  
3 Council members, the Department's comments on the  
4 original proposal appear on Page 14. This is a fairly  
5 cumbersome process, the Federal proposal cycle. These  
6 comments are on the original proposal. What you have in  
7 your book is a Staff recommendation for the action that  
8 should be taken on that proposal. In some cases the  
9 Staff will recommend something different than the  
10 original proposal sought, so in some cases you may see  
11 our comments -- you'll wonder why the Department's  
12 opposing this proposal or supporting it, while, in fact,  
13 keep in mind we commented originally on the proposal  
14 without any of this Staff analysis or other comments  
15 available.

16  
17 The Department opposed the original  
18 proposal primarily because we felt the Fortymile caribou  
19 planning process and the State regulations have resulted  
20 in the Board of Game authorizing up to numbers rather  
21 than hard and fast numbers, in the State regulations. So  
22 the Board of Game has authorized, in State regulation,  
23 the harvest of up to 900 caribou in Unit 20(E) and up to  
24 600 caribou in Unit 25(C). We would like to see that  
25 adopted as language in the Federal regulation because  
26 that gives more flexibility and the Board won't have to  
27 come back every year and revise its numbers as it may  
28 have to do -- the numbers that are in the proposed  
29 conclusion here of 355 and 240 caribou, those may well  
30 change next year in the State regulation because there  
31 may be more caribou available, therefore the harvest  
32 ceiling can increase. If these numbers are adopted in  
33 Federal regulation, the Federal Board may have to look at  
34 revising the Federal regulation next year.

35  
36 The written public comments you'll see  
37 also on Page 14 include a couple of alternatives for  
38 language in the regulation proposed by the Upper Tanana  
39 Advisory Committee. We like the language that appears in  
40 Alternative 1 as another piece of this proposal and  
41 that's consistent with what is part of the preliminary  
42 conclusion in bold print on Page 11. So if the numbers  
43 were revised to read up to 900 and up to 600 caribou, and  
44 Alternative 1 was added to the preliminary conclusion as  
45 the Federal Staff have proposed, we would support that.

46  
47 Mr. Chairman, while Craig Gardner is here  
48 he can provide you with some updated information on the  
49 Fortymile Caribou for those of you who are interested and  
50 if this would be the appropriate time for that.



00017

1 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you, Terry. Craig.

2

3 MR. GARDNER: Craig Gardner, Fish and  
4 Game, Tok. Actually a couple of things that will  
5 probably help in your deliberations is -- two great  
6 things, actually. One, the Fortymile Herd is continuing  
7 to grow like Pete mentioned, you know, it grew by 10  
8 percent again this year so the quota can continually go  
9 up which is, you know, consistent with the harvest plan  
10 that's been adopted by the Board, the Fish and Game Board  
11 and, I think, endorsed by the Federal Subsistence Board.

12

13 The second great thing is, is that the  
14 Fortymile Herd has proven that a joint public State and  
15 Federal process can work really well. You know, we've  
16 had a joint permit now for six years. People can go to a  
17 number of places and get them instead of having just to  
18 go a certain agency. We close hunts at the same time so  
19 the public, you know, is easily tracked, you know, from  
20 everybody. And so by doing this amendment or change like  
21 Terry, give an up to language to meet the State's quota  
22 gives the flexibility again to this joint process. I  
23 mean, because what it will actually do, like Terry says,  
24 the herd is going up this year, now, if we have a great  
25 calving season, you know, these numbers that I gave to  
26 Pete is kind of based on, you know, hoping. You know,  
27 but things really haven't happened yet. Winter mortality  
28 is not over yet. You know, the calving season hasn't  
29 happened yet. So like Terry said if we have a boom year  
30 and winter mortality basically, you know, flattens out,  
31 the quota could actually be a little bit higher.

32

33 So if we could have the ability for BLM,  
34 Fish and Game and Park Service to work together to  
35 basically set the quotas, again, it would be a joint  
36 quota. It would benefit the user and also make sure that  
37 the harvest never affects the herd greater than that 10  
38 percent growth rate which is part of the management plan  
39 or the harvest plan. You know, so it gives a greater  
40 flexibility and, actually, I think is more -- well,  
41 follows the intent of the harvest plan a little better  
42 than trying to make a set quota, you know, so early in  
43 the year each year.

44

45 The second thing that I think is -- the  
46 reason why I think this proposal even came to be is this  
47 Nelchina Herd coming into 20(E). And it's mainly, again,  
48 a little bit of a problem because how well the Fortymile  
49 Herd is doing. I mean, because now the Fortymile winter  
50 quota is so high and it's for any caribou, what we can

00018

1 now see if Nelchina's move into 20(E) and get into  
2 Federal land, actually -- they could be pretty vulnerable  
3 to a fairly large intensive harvest and it could be  
4 taking cows, okay. So really what we're trying to do  
5 here is just try to stop that scenario, okay. Now, the  
6 Upper Tanana Advisory Committee, you know, their  
7 recommendation which is that Option 1 that Terry talked  
8 about, they actually had, I thought was a great idea,  
9 again, the subsistence user. It basically says, okay,  
10 you can have these ratios and we've managed on ratios now  
11 for a lot of years, and quite successfully, you know, to  
12 keep Mentasta, Nelchina and Fortymile all kind of  
13 separated. But will happen is like a year like this one  
14 when not very many Nelchina's came over but hardly any  
15 Fortymile's came over, you'd have a situation where,  
16 yeah, the ratio is such that would put this hunt up the  
17 road, but yet there's really no caribou can get shot or  
18 very few caribou can get shot. So basically what they're  
19 offering or recommending is have a cap on the harvest.  
20 You know, so if you have so few Nelchina's in there,  
21 regardless of the ratio, the harvest is not going to  
22 affect, really, either herd or the opportunity for either  
23 herd, well, then don't worry about making this closure on  
24 just a few handful of animals.

25

26 So, again, I think, biologically it's no  
27 problem, but socially it'd be a great deal.

28

29 So really, that's the only two points --  
30 or maybe more than two, but, anyway, the only points I  
31 had. So if you have any questions on the two herds let  
32 me know.

33

34 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Tricia.

35

36 MS. WAGGONER: Craig, how do you  
37 determine the ratio mix? I mean, how sure are you of  
38 that mix ratio?

39

40 MR. GARDNER: Great question, Trish.  
41 Like I said, we've been doing it now for like six, seven  
42 years and we've been lucky that there's a lot of radio  
43 collars in the Nelchina Herd, in fact there's over 140  
44 now independent radios, I think. Ratio now of one collar  
45 for every 40 animals. I mean the ratio of collared  
46 animals is really tight. Mentasta has like 7,500  
47 collars. I mean there's a lot of collars on Mentasta  
48 Herd. It's the same kind of thing, I think their ratio  
49 is like a collar every 10 animals. And then Fortymile we  
50 have over a hundred animals collared, too. So basically

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1 when we radio-track them we'll be able to just tell, you  
2 know, kind of come up with an estimate by the number of  
3 radios -- independent radios are in that area, caribou of  
4 each herd represented. And like I said, we did it in the  
5 Unit 12 hunts for Nelchina, Mentasta and it was a great  
6 success. We managed strictly on ratio and you could not  
7 see any difference in that Mentasta Herd. And that would  
8 have been the herd that was affected in Unit 12. It  
9 works. I mean it works really well.

10

11 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Any more questions for  
12 Craig or Terry. Sue.

13

14 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Craig, are you  
15 saying that this proposal, as written here, if it was  
16 changed to up to it would be, as I read it 355 caribou on  
17 the, whichever herd it was -- oh, I guess it's the  
18 season. Does that give you the ability to increase the  
19 number or is that the limit until it would change another  
20 time.

21

22 MR. GARDNER: That's probably more of a  
23 question for Pete but it would actually be the limit  
24 because that would be Federal regulation for that year.

25

26 MR. DeMATTEO: Craig is correct. If we  
27 put 355 then that would be the cap, you couldn't exceed  
28 it for that year.

29

30 MS. ENTSMINGER: Then I guess I heard  
31 something that needed to be addressed in my mind and that  
32 is you had said if there is more caribou, for some reason  
33 survive we could have a bigger harvest. Does this number  
34 -- could you expound on that, please?

35

36 MR. GARDNER: Like I said, this number  
37 was really based on the trend that I saw, basically, you  
38 know, when I sent it to Pete maybe a month ago. So I  
39 kind of added in what we knew from the composition counts  
40 this fall and what we know of winter mortality to date,  
41 of a month ago. But then also then what I had to do was  
42 kind of just, you know, factor the remaining winter  
43 mortality and come up with an estimate of herd size and  
44 trend. Okay, because that 10 percent growth rate is the  
45 trigger point in the harvest plan. You know, basically  
46 the harvest plan says that we don't want to have a  
47 harvest that would jeopardize the growth rate of 10  
48 percent. So we want to have a minimum 10 percent every  
49 year.

50

00020

1                   So like I said, there's a lot of, kind  
2 of, in a way, modeling that has gone into that estimate.  
3 And what I was saying that if you had the up to language  
4 of 900 in there, see, that would give the flexibility  
5 that all of a sudden we had a bonaroo (ph) spring, you  
6 know, we could actually not worry about having a fixed  
7 number, we could actually jump it up and it would be the  
8 same quota for the State and the Federal.

9  
10                   CHAIRMAN MIKE: Tricia.

11  
12                   MS. WAGGONER: Pete indicated, when he  
13 made his presentation, that there was one year that they  
14 couldn't -- or the hunt wasn't shut down and I was just  
15 wondering why the State didn't shut it down? I mean I  
16 understand the length of the Federal process.

17  
18                   MR. GARDNER: Actually, okay, if I  
19 understood the question, it was like why wasn't the  
20 Nelchina portion -- the State did shut it down. Every  
21 year that the Nelchinas have come into that lower section  
22 of the Taylor, what I did on the State hunt is I closed  
23 the Taylor Highway until I ran out of Nelchina collars,  
24 basically. So I closed it to Mile, I think, 52 for three  
25 years running. So actually the State hunt was totally  
26 closed, it was just the Federal hunt that was open in  
27 that area.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN MIKE: Virgil.

30  
31                   MR. UMPHENOUR: So basically this  
32 language at the end, what it would basically be is a  
33 delegation of authority to the Federal managers so that  
34 they could basically have emergency order authority,  
35 close the season rather than have to go through a special  
36 action request to give more flexibility to the managers.  
37 That's all.

38  
39                   MR. DeMATTEO: That is Correct, Virgil.  
40 Basically it would forego the long process have going to  
41 go through the special action process which would involve  
42 Staff writing an analysis like you see in front of you,  
43 then go through the review channels and eventually to the  
44 Board. That can take, sometimes, up to a week. In the  
45 meantime the season is still open.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN MIKE: Tricia.

48  
49                   MS. WAGGONER: The other question would  
50 be, since this wasn't brought up in the draft analysis

00021

1 was, what would be the -- I mean could the Federal  
2 regulation deal with the up to numbers without a problem.

3

4 MR. DeMATTEO: Yeah. Essentially what  
5 you would be doing is you're setting the overall cap for  
6 the subunit and the overall cap reflects the numbers that  
7 comply with the management plan. Is it two percent?

8

9 MR. GARDNER: About two percent.

10

11 MR. DeMATTEO: About two percent of the  
12 total population. So if you add up the 900 plus the 600.

13

14 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, the up to 900. It  
15 gets -- this is where people can get pretty confused. If  
16 they read and saw up to 900 animals, they thought we were  
17 basically shooting the snot out of this herd and it  
18 wouldn't be, you know, with the harvest plan -- what the  
19 900 did, it was, again, we didn't want to have to go to  
20 the Game Board every two years so what we did, we  
21 projected herd growth for like the next five or six years  
22 and so we figured that way, it'd be the life of the  
23 harvest plan. I mean it would be almost biologically  
24 impossible to exceed that 900, you know, and so basically  
25 gave us the flexibility to set quotas annually without  
26 having to go to the Game Board. You know, so that's how  
27 we came up with the 900, we just basically looked at  
28 growth rate over the next five years.

29

30 MS. WAGGONER: One last question. When  
31 do you make your determination on the quota in the year?

32

33 MR. GARDNER: Actually, I'm going to make  
34 it -- Roy, will probably jump and get me but I think the  
35 registration permits have to be -- the final language --  
36 it crowds right up to summer so I can push it through the  
37 winter mortality. You know, so that's when I usually set  
38 it.

39

40 MR. DeMATTEO: Just let me add, just to  
41 answer your question from before. If we go with the  
42 numbers that are outlined in the proposed regulation and  
43 if the State should want to go a higher number, within,  
44 like this fall hunt or the winter hunt, then the Federal  
45 regulations, we can't do that. But if we go with more of  
46 an overall cap, an up to number like Craig said before,  
47 then the management agency can just go ahead and open the  
48 season, okay, in concert with what the State's doing. We  
49 don't have to go through the regulatory process again.  
50 Does that answer your question?

00022

1 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Sue.

2

3 MS. ENTSMINGER: That would change the  
4 language of the proposal as seen before us, right? Does  
5 anyone have that language?

6

7 MR. DeMATTEO: Essentially if you look at  
8 the ADF&G comments at the top of Page 14, essentially  
9 from what Terry Haynes recommended before, is the quotas  
10 would be up to 900 caribou in Unit 20(E).

11

12 MS. ENTSMINGER: If we could just have it  
13 written.....

14

15 MR. DeMATTEO: Well, essentially since  
16 this is yours -- this is the Council's proposal, then the  
17 Council, you would have to put a motion on the table that  
18 you want to revise the proposal.

19

20 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I understand that.  
21 But being new on this Regional Council, I just want to  
22 make sure that, you know, while Craig and Terry are here,  
23 I see something in writing, then we have that option to  
24 look at since these guys will be gone. So we will have  
25 that, right?

26

27 MR. DeMATTEO: You bet. When it gets  
28 time for you guys to take action on this we'll have  
29 something in writing for you and it can be read into the  
30 record.

31

32 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Virgil.

33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: While we're on this  
35 subject, I'd like to know, I assume the sterilization  
36 project and the transplanting of the wolves must be  
37 working, and so my question is basically how is that  
38 working -- is it working as planned and also how many new  
39 wolf packs have established themselves in the area?

40

41 MR. GARDNER: Yes. Actually the  
42 sterilization and the relocation did work for the area  
43 that we did it. I mean I'm not trying to be an agency  
44 mush-mouth here, but we all realize that we did 15 packs,  
45 we sterilized and relocated. Now, in those 15-pack  
46 territories we reduced wolf numbers by 80 percent. You  
47 know, so we were very successful in reducing wolf  
48 numbers, in fact, as successful as a lethal-controlled  
49 program has ever proven to be. With that, we've seen an  
50 increase in calf survival. Now, to put everything on the

00023

1 fewer wolves on the calving grounds and say that's the  
2 reason why we have more caribou calves today, that's not  
3 really true, we've had some good luck, too. I mean we've  
4 had some nice weather, we've had some high pregnancy  
5 rates. You know, we've had some good weather advantages.

6  
7 But what the sterilization did do,  
8 though, is they're coming out of the summer with more  
9 caribou -- or the relocation actually, more caribou  
10 calves than what was happening, okay.

11  
12 Now, your second question is actually the  
13 million dollar one, is, how quick is the area going to be  
14 repopulized or reconolized, you know, by wolves coming in  
15 these packs, and that's what we've been trying to do this  
16 winter. And look at just that, the recolonization rate.  
17 Now, the reason why the sterilization component was  
18 important was not as wolf control. The relocation and  
19 trapping was the wolf control, that's what reduced wolf  
20 numbers. What the sterilization did was maintain it.  
21 And so what we were hoping is that that maintenance of  
22 this low number of two, basically, was going to basically  
23 stay there the length of the life of the wolves and that  
24 they wouldn't get pushed out by bigger packs and, vice  
25 versa.

26  
27 Well, so far, we've been incredibly  
28 lucky. I mean I can't believe just the survival rate of  
29 these wolves is actually higher than what's natural of  
30 what you'd expect alpha wolves. I mean they're your best  
31 survivors, anyway. They're the biggest and bad out  
32 there. But these wolves, you know, we've collared and  
33 sterilized some of these in '97, and they're still --  
34 they're still the main wolves in that territory. So what  
35 we've found out, so far we haven't had any packs move in  
36 to any of the 15-pack territories that still have the  
37 pair. Now, what happened last year is a pair got  
38 trapped. They actually moved out of their area, they  
39 were chasing caribou during breeding time, they both got  
40 trapped and now that territory is vacant and we're seeing  
41 some wolves move into that. But that is the only one we  
42 see. They haven't had a denning period yet, so there's  
43 only two wolves there. So what we're seeing is is that  
44 the sterilization program is basically carrying on. I  
45 mean we ended this program last year but we're going to  
46 see the effects of low wolf numbers for, well, this year  
47 for sure and hopefully a few more in the future.

48  
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. And one other  
50 question is have you done an analysis as to whether the

00024

1 predation by bear has increased since the numbers of  
2 wolves has decreased and there's more calves available  
3 for the bears?

4

5 MR. GARDNER: Yeah. Yeah, that was  
6 another one of our million dollar questions. Because if  
7 you remember from the original language in the plan, it  
8 basically said that if wolf numbers decrease it would do  
9 you no good if bear predation, you know, basically is  
10 compensatory, it increased and basically took away all  
11 your benefit. And so if you remember, there was actually  
12 wording in the plan that said if we saw that happening,  
13 one of the choices we would have is to basically relocate  
14 bears like we did in '79, you know, move them across the  
15 river. So what Rod and I did in the calf mortality  
16 studies, we looked at the issue of grizzly bear predation  
17 in years prior to wolf removal to years after they were  
18 reduced. And we had one year where grizzly bear  
19 predation went up but it was also a year of basically  
20 grizzly bear predation went up in a lot of different calf  
21 mortality studies. But if you take that one out it's  
22 just been a straight line, it's been like 23, 25 percent  
23 predation on calves and it just hasn't wiggled. It's  
24 pretty much a straight line.

25

26 MR. UMPHENOUR: One last question.  
27 Being's there's more hunters in the field now because  
28 there's more caribou permits, are the hunters actually  
29 taking more grizzly bears out of the population because  
30 there's more people out there?

31

32 MR. GARDNER: This last year was the  
33 first year, you know, of our seeing an increased number  
34 of hunters and I looked at that, to see if grizzly bear  
35 harvest instantly responded. And I think a lot of  
36 factors came into play there. It was up a few bears, but  
37 nothing significant. I think the question will be,  
38 Virgil, in two to three years when we look at that. You  
39 know, because the whole idea of when bears -- a little  
40 more susceptible, I mean, you guide and hunt a lot. You  
41 know, I'm always real interested in why some years bears  
42 are a lot more vulnerable. Like two years ago, you know,  
43 it was one of the highest harvests in Unit 20(E)'s  
44 history. But, yet, the number of hunters wasn't that  
45 great but it seemed like the bears were very vulnerable,  
46 you know, berries or what have you. Last year, you know,  
47 they just weren't seeing them as much.

48

49 So I think that question is one that we  
50 should look at every year, you know, because, yeah,



00025

1 you're talking thousands of more hunters out there.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Anymore questions for

6 Craig or Pete? Jay, do you have any questions?

7

8 MR. STEVENS: (Shakes head negatively)

9

10 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Do we have any other

11 agency comments from the State or Federal?

12

13 MR. GARDNER: Good luck.

14

15 CHAIRMAN MIKE: State your name and

16 agency, please.

17

18 MS. GRONQUIST: Ruth Gronquist with BLM.

19 Since some of this land that we're talking about is BLM,

20 I would just like to say that BLM supports this proposal

21 with the amendments that Fish and Game has recommended.

22 Any questions.

23

24 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Any questions.

25

26 MS. GRONQUIST: Taylor's made a good

27 point and one of the things that he suggested I pass on,

28 is that, in concert with Fish and Game, the northern

29 field office will look at, if the issue should arise, a

30 closure is called for, we would do that in concert with

31 Fish and Game, we don't act all by ourselves.

32

33 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Any other agency

34 comments.

35

36 We'll open the floor for public comments

37 specific to the proposal if there's any public comments.

38 If we don't have any public comments, we can move into

39 the summary of written public comments and for the

40 Council, written public comments is on Page 14. As Terry

41 Haynes brought to your attention, the Upper Tanana

42 Fortymile Advisory Committee and they support the

43 proposal with modification as Terry Haynes outlined.

44

45 We had one written public comment that we

46 received in our office last week from Carol Jensen of

47 Anchorage, Alaska and she's opposed to expanding this

48 hunt in any way. You didn't have a copy of this comment

49 from Carol Jensen because it came in last week and I

50 didn't have time to make any copies.

00026

1 MS. WAGGONER: Could you pass it around?

2

3 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Okay, I will. And that  
4 is the end. I think that the Council agreed that they  
5 would get into deliberation when we get Jim Wilde and  
6 Gerald Nicholia and deliberate on Proposal 42. So we'll  
7 move on to Proposal 43, revise the season and remove  
8 antler restrictions for moose in Unit 20(E).

9

10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Could I ask a question,  
11 first, would it be appropriate to table this proposal  
12 until time certain when the other Council members to get  
13 here?

14

15 CHAIRMAN MIKE: What?

16

17 MR. UMPHENOUR: So moved.

18

19 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Are you speaking on  
20 Proposal 42?

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct. Because I don't  
23 think we can really have two proposals on the table at  
24 the same time. I think we have to table one of them  
25 procedurally. So I move to table Proposal 42 to time  
26 certain when we have the rest of the Council members  
27 present.

28

29 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Okay, there's a motion on  
30 the table to table Proposal 42. All those in favor of  
31 tabling Proposal 42 say aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN MIKE: All opposed, same sign.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 CHAIRMAN MIKE: It's been moved to table  
40 Proposal 42 until we get Council members.

41

42 MR. RIVARD: Was there a second?

43

44 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Parliamentary, I think I  
45 need some help.

46

47 MR. UMPHENOUR: We should have had a  
48 second.

49

50 MR. STEVENS: Yeah, for that purpose.

00027

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, move to table until  
2 time certain.

3  
4 MR. STEVENS: I'll second.

5  
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Request unanimous  
7 consent.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Let's have a procedural  
10 question as far as Virgil Umphenour's motion being made.  
11 The original motion was to table 42 and then we had -- we  
12 had no second and Jay Stevens seconded the motion made by  
13 Virgil, so it's tabled until the next meeting?

14  
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: No time certain.  
16 Whenever we get -- whenever the other board members get  
17 here that we're waiting on.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Okay.

20  
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's why I said time  
22 certain because otherwise if you tabled it it would be  
23 tabled indefinite -- or -- if we adjourn the meeting, if  
24 I'm understanding correctly, the procedure, then it would  
25 die, and so if you table it time certain to whatever the  
26 time is you decide prior to when you make the motion then  
27 it would be brought off the table at that time and so I  
28 said time certain whenever we have the people that we're  
29 waiting on. Mr. Chair.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Okay.

32  
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: And then for convenience  
34 I requested unanimous consent and then if no one opposes  
35 that then that means it passes.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Umphenour.

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN MIKE: And we'll get into  
42 Proposal 43.

43  
44 MR. DeMATTEO: Proposal 43, you'll find  
45 the analysis beginning on Page 18. This proposal was  
46 submitted by the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory  
47 Council. This proposal requests changes in moose  
48 regulations for Unit 20(E), that portion drained by the  
49 Fortymile River, all forks, from Mile 9.5 to Mile 145 of  
50 the Taylor Highway, including the Boundary Cutoff Road.

00028

1                   The proposed regulation change would  
2 align State and Federal regulations by deleting the  
3 spike-fork antler requirement for the August season and  
4 would change the first day of the season from August 20th  
5 to August 24th. If you look on Page 18, about half way  
6 down it says the proposed Federal regulation for Unit  
7 20(E) moose, basically what this regulation -- what this  
8 requested change would eliminate the antler bull  
9 requirement. I'm sorry, the spike-antlered bull  
10 requirement through the August season.

11  
12                   So essentially the August 24th through  
13 28th season, any bull would be legal. That would  
14 increase the harvest opportunity for Federal subsistence  
15 users. Currently about less than 15 percent of the bull  
16 component of the total population are spike-antlered  
17 bulls so, therefore, the availability of spike-antlered  
18 bulls is not that great. In fact, since 1994, no spike-  
19 antlered bulls have been harvested on Federal lands. So  
20 adoption of this proposal would definitely increase the  
21 harvest opportunity for Federal subsistence users on  
22 Federal lands.

23  
24                   This request was done in cooperation with  
25 the Council, the BLM and the Department of Fish and Game.  
26 The request also would mirror recent Board of Game  
27 actions that liberalize the harvest opportunity of bulls  
28 within the subunit. The Department of Fish and Game also  
29 dropped the spike-fork antler bull requirement in the  
30 same subunit in the same season.

31  
32                   The Federal only, September 1 through 7  
33 season would continue. That's a Federal only season  
34 because the State season in September begins on the 8th  
35 through the 17th. So the Federal only September 1  
36 through 7 season would essentially not have to compete  
37 with non-local residents and non-residents during that  
38 season. So that opportunity would continue as well.

39  
40                   The preliminary conclusion is to support  
41 the proposal because this would increase harvest  
42 opportunity on Federal lands and it would rely on Federal  
43 and State regulations.

44  
45                   That's all I have.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN MIKE: Agency comments.

48  
49                   MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The  
50 Department of Fish and Game comments are on Page 24 of

00029

1 your book. And the Department supports this proposal for  
2 the reasons that are presented by the authors of the  
3 proposal.

4  
5 We do have a concern, though, about the  
6 potential increase in moose harvest that might result in  
7 some areas as a consequence of the antler restrictions  
8 being removed. And especially in areas along and  
9 accessible from the Taylor Highway. If that happens,  
10 there may be a need to impose some reductions on the  
11 September season.

12  
13 And I'd also note for the record, that  
14 the Federal C&T determination for Unit 20(E) is currently  
15 all rural residents of Alaska and at some point in time  
16 in order to protect local rural residents, the Federal  
17 Board may need to take a look at that C&T determination  
18 and determine if a revision should be made to narrow it  
19 down to something less than all rural residents. But for  
20 the time being we support the proposal.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you, Terry. Any  
23 other agency comments, is Craig Gardner -- you got any  
24 agency comments, Craig?

25  
26 MR. GARDNER: Only if there are  
27 questions.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Okay. Any other agency  
30 comments, Federal agencies.

31  
32 MS. GRONQUIST: Ruth Gronquist from BLM.  
33 And we support the proposal also.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Sue.

36  
37 MS. ENTSMINGER: I do have a question for  
38 Craig. I guess I would like to know, you don't foresee  
39 any increased harvest that would be a problem here?

40  
41 MR. GARDNER: No. Because the  
42 changeover, one, for the August season and, you know, not  
43 -- and we all know is the tougher time to get a moose. I  
44 don't suspect that the harvest is going to jump up in any  
45 kind of leaps and bounds. But the benefit I really see  
46 with this proposal is basically in that 20 to 28th season  
47 now if a Federal user wants to hunt moose and caribou at  
48 the same time, they -- you know, they have to hunt on  
49 Federal regulation on Federal land, well, if they do this  
50 during the early August season it means they can only go

00030

1 after a spike-fork bull, you know, so their chances of  
2 getting a moose is actually quite low. And so what this  
3 would do is actually increase some opportunity. I don't  
4 see any really increase in harvest. I mean obviously  
5 there'll be an increase in harvest because it goes from  
6 zero to X number but I don't think that X number is going  
7 to be anything to worry about.

8

9 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Tricia.

10

11 MS. WAGGONER: In regards to the hunting  
12 both caribou and moose at the same time because I know  
13 that's part of the reason for the registration, is to  
14 limit that access. So if I'm reading this right, under  
15 the State season and not the subsistence harvest, you can  
16 only get a moose or a caribou and then Federal you can  
17 hunt both at the same time? I know you can't hunt both  
18 at the same time on State but you can only get one or the  
19 other under the State?

20

21 MR. GARDNER: No, I noticed that, too.  
22 That's actually an error. You can actually harvest a  
23 moose and then turn your report in and have the  
24 opportunity to harvest a caribou, and vice versa.

25

26 MS. WAGGONER: So under the State you  
27 can't hunt both at the same time but on Federal lands,  
28 subsistence users have the opportunity to hunt both at  
29 the same time?

30

31 MR. GARDNER: Right.

32

33 MS. WAGGONER: Okay.

34

35 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Any further questions.  
36 Thank you, Craig.

37

38 We did not receive any public comments  
39 for Proposal 43. Written public comments is on Page 24  
40 of your Council book and this is from the Upper Tanana  
41 Fortymile Advisory Committee. The Committee supports  
42 changing the Federal moose season in Unit 20(E) to mirror  
43 the State's and supports the extra hunting opportunity  
44 during the early season when the State is closed. Local  
45 hunters would rather have the opportunity to hunt any  
46 bull during five days than be restricted to spike-fork  
47 bulls for a longer time period. The Committee could  
48 think of only one bull taken during the spike-fork season  
49 in Unit 20(E) during the past five years. And that was  
50 from the Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee.

00031

1                   We've reviewed Proposal 42 and 43 and Jim  
2 Wilde hasn't shown up so what is the wish of the Council?  
3 Do you want to do some agency briefings or continue on  
4 with the wildlife proposals?

5  
6                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to table until time  
7 certain.

8  
9                   MS. WAGGONER: Second.

10  
11                  MR. UMPHENOUR: Request unanimous  
12 consent.

13  
14                  CHAIRMAN MIKE: All those in favor.

15  
16                  MR. UMPHENOUR: It's just a unanimous  
17 consent, you ask for any opposition.

18  
19                  CHAIRMAN MIKE: Does anyone object to  
20 unanimous consent?

21  
22                  (No opposing votes)

23  
24                  MS. WAGGONER: Are any more of the  
25 proposals -- I haven't looked through them, do they  
26 involve Unit 12 or 20?

27  
28                  CHAIRMAN MIKE: That would be Proposal  
29 No. 19. Proposal 19 deals with moose in Unit 11 and 12.  
30 Tricia.

31  
32                  MS. WAGGONER: I was just looking to see  
33 if there was anymore that we were going to need to  
34 discuss with Craig. I just wanted to make sure.

35  
36                  MR. GARDNER: (Shakes head negatively)

37  
38                  MS. WAGGONER: We got you?

39  
40                  MR. GARDNER: (Nods affirmatively)

41  
42                  MS. WAGGONER: Okay.

43  
44                  CHAIRMAN MIKE: Okay, if it's the wish of  
45 the Council we can either continue on the wildlife  
46 proposal or get into the FIS briefing reports.

47  
48                  MR. UMPHENOUR: We could go ahead with  
49 the FIS report, I think would be my preference.

50

00032

1                   CHAIRMAN MIKE: Is that okay with the  
2 rest of the Council, we could get into FIS, this is just  
3 the informational report and it will be given by Cliff  
4 Schleusner.

5  
6                   MR. SCHLEUSNER: My name is Cliff  
7 Schleusner. I work with the Office of Subsistence  
8 Management, Fisheries Information Services Division. I'd  
9 like to begin with an update on the 2003 Request for  
10 Proposals. The request went out in November. February  
11 15th was the deadline for receiving new proposals.

12  
13                   We've currently received 55 project  
14 proposals statewide with a funding request totalling  
15 \$3,719,938, 19 of those proposals were directed at Yukon  
16 River fisheries issues. Within the Yukon River, three  
17 proposals for harvest monitoring and traditional  
18 ecological knowledge were received totalling 462,000 and  
19 16 of those proposals were targeted stock, status and  
20 assessment projects and that was a total funding request  
21 of about 816,000 for a total funding request for the  
22 Yukon of approximately 1.3 million.

23  
24                   Currently the proposals and Staff  
25 analysis are being prepared for the TRC so that's where  
26 we are within that process. It's in its beginning  
27 stages.

28  
29                   I also handed out two handouts, one of  
30 them is the Yukon River project update. I'd like to  
31 briefly go over some of the high points of this. This is  
32 just a continuation of the update that was provided back  
33 to the Councils previously. Most of the information on  
34 here is repetitive from the last presentation. The way  
35 that I've broken it up is through the first section of  
36 this is the 2000/2001 projects that are currently  
37 operating in 2002. There's 18 of those projects that  
38 we're currently funding for a total of 996,000. After  
39 that I've included the 2002 new project start schedule to  
40 begin this year. There's seven of those projects  
41 totaling a little over 400,000 for a total Yukon River  
42 Fisheries Monitoring Program of approximately 1.4  
43 million.

44  
45                   There's also, at the end, a list of  
46 projects that are completed, there's 16 of those projects  
47 since this program was initiated in 2000. And there was  
48 one project that was cancelled. And that was Project No.  
49 01-025. That project was cancelled due to prior  
50 commitments and staffing restraints from the



00033

1 investigators. The only other significant development in  
2 projects was with Project No. 01-211, that is the Upper  
3 Yukon and Black River salmon TEK evaluation in which  
4 Craig Fleener was the principal investigator and due to  
5 the September 11th disaster he was no longer able to be  
6 the principal investigator on that project, but CATG is  
7 continuing forward with the work and Bruce Thomas is the  
8 new principal investigator for that project.

9

10 So this is just prepared for your  
11 information and reference material for you. If you've  
12 had a chance to review the information I presented or  
13 gave to you this morning, I guess, at this time I'd like  
14 to ask if there's any questions about the Fisheries  
15 Resource Monitoring Program. I know the information I  
16 passed out at the working group session was kind of at  
17 the last minute. Is there a need to go over that and  
18 explain the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in any  
19 more detail?

20

21 I take that as a no.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 All right, then the third thing I'd like  
26 to discuss is the overview and status and future  
27 direction for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.  
28 This is critical for several reasons. It will become  
29 apparent as we go through this document.

30

31 The objective of the Fisheries Resource  
32 Monitoring Program is to provide information necessary  
33 for the effective management of subsistence fisheries on  
34 Federal public lands. To achieve this mandate, the  
35 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program funds projects to  
36 gather, analyze and report information needed to manage  
37 and concern subsistence fisheries resources addressing  
38 fisheries issues and priorities identified by the  
39 Regional Advisory Councils, minimize fisheries conflicts  
40 and address regulatory actions before the Federal  
41 Subsistence Board. The Office of Subsistence Management  
42 administered the FRMP.

43

44 There's a summary graph on the bottom of  
45 the first page of this and it basically gives the  
46 financial history of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
47 Program since its inception in 2000. During the first  
48 year, a total of four million was, I guess, \$4 million  
49 initially was used to fund the Fisheries Resource  
50 Monitoring Program with projects totalling 2.5 million in

00034

1 2000 and 2001 a more complete program was funding with a  
2 total budget of 7.25 million. The 7.25 million is  
3 currently envisioned as the funding level for this  
4 project. This budget must support ongoing funding  
5 commitments from projects initiated in previous years as  
6 well as the first year of any new project starts.

7  
8                   Currently project funding commitments can  
9 be no more than three years in duration. Additionally,  
10 in 2002, a funding commitment of 1.05 million was made to  
11 fund the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program,  
12 which you will be briefed on later on in the week.  
13 Future funding available for both continuing and new  
14 projects is approximately \$6 million annually.

15  
16                   The graph here clearly shows the affects  
17 of funding multiple years -- or projects for multiple  
18 years. The dark line in 2000 was 2000 no year funding.  
19 The next darker line as it goes was 2000/2002 and then  
20 the Partners showed up in the 2002 budget.

21  
22                   In 2003 there's anticipated that there's  
23 approximately 1.3 million available statewide for new  
24 starts for projects in the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
25 Program. A funding framework was utilized to allocate  
26 available funds by geographic region and data type.

27  
28                   The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program  
29 uses plan uses several criteria to review and make  
30 recommendations on project submissions. However, it is  
31 the regional issues and information needs identified by  
32 each Council that have largely driven proposal  
33 development and project selections. These issues and  
34 information needs were first formulated in 2000 and are  
35 annually revisited by each Council and subsequently  
36 published by the Office of Subsistence Management as the  
37 basis for development of proposals. With few exceptions,  
38 the issues and information needs for each region have  
39 remained largely unchanged since their inception in 2000.  
40 Staff must provide an ongoing assessment of how well  
41 project selections address Council issues and information  
42 needs. Some projects designed for longer than three  
43 years -- some projects are designed for a longer funding  
44 commitment than three years. For instance, there is some  
45 existing projects that were initiated -- or are intended  
46 to provide data over a five to 20 year time frame.  
47 Examples include projects that seek to estimate  
48 escapement goals, annually estimate subsistence harvest  
49 or address unresolved regulatory issues. The latitude to  
50 fund projects up to three years has precluded the need to

00035

1 consider long-term or continuation funding commitments in  
2 2000/2001 or 2002. However, the consideration of  
3 continuation funding first surfaced in 2003. In 2003  
4 there are no further funding commitments for projects  
5 initiated in 2000 that were intended to provide data over  
6 a longer time frame.

7  
8 To enable a more comprehensive analysis  
9 of continued funding needs, proposals in 2003 of only one  
10 year duration were considered for continuation funding.  
11 That will allow us the maximum flexibility in 2004 to  
12 address new issues and information needs the future  
13 issues for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. In  
14 2004, approximately 4.9 million will be -- or uncommitted  
15 funds will be available for Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
16 project selection statewide. That leaves approximately  
17 700 to 1 million available to continue funding for Yukon  
18 River Fisheries monitoring projects. It will be very  
19 important to carefully evaluate the long-term strategic  
20 fisheries monitoring needs as other funding will be  
21 decreased with attrition of State general funds, the end  
22 of Federal fisheries disaster relief funding by June 2003  
23 and the possible loss of Bering Sea Fishermen Association  
24 funding.

25  
26 To effectively utilize existing funds,  
27 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program reviewers and  
28 decision-makers should have a clear understanding of the  
29 following.

30  
31 Number 1, how well have project  
32 selections to-date addressed Council issues and  
33 information needs? Which issues and information needs  
34 likely require the annual collection of long-term data.  
35 How effectively has the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
36 plan been coordinated with other fisheries monitoring  
37 programs to optimize the use of funds to address issues  
38 and data needs and what are the results of the projects  
39 to-date?

40  
41 Answers to the first three questions  
42 provide the framework for balancing both long-term  
43 funding commitments to existing projects and new project  
44 starts for yet to be addressed issues and potential  
45 strategies for prioritizing project selection.

46  
47 The Yukon River project update table  
48 provides a brief summary of project activities through  
49 December 2001. A more complete analysis of the project  
50 results, the fourth question, will be provided in the

00036

1 fall 2002 Council meetings.

2

3

4 The following analysis are preliminary  
5 and address these questions for the Yukon region. It is  
6 the intent of the Office of Subsistence Management to  
7 work with subsistence fishermen and their  
8 representatives, tribal organizations, State and Federal  
9 agencies to develop a strategic framework to guide the  
10 development of the 2004 requests for proposals. It will  
11 then be brought before the Councils for -- excuse me, the  
12 2004 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan -- it will then  
13 be brought before the Councils for public review and  
14 comment at the fall 2003 Council meetings.

14

15

16 How well have project selections to-date  
17 addressed the Council's issues and information needs?  
18 Issues and information needs for the Yukon were  
19 identified under eight broad categories. Within each of  
20 these categories, specific locations for study were also  
21 identified. All Fisheries Resource Monitoring project  
22 selections to-date directly address five of the eight  
23 broad categories and most identified specific location.  
24 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring projects that will be  
25 considered for long-term funding are presented in bold  
26 type. And this is just a preliminary analysis on which  
27 project fit the criteria for long-term funding. Under  
28 traditional ecological knowledge, long-term trends, fish  
29 life history and subsistence use in practices were  
30 identified under the issues and information needs. Seven  
31 projects have been funded to-date under this category.

31

32

33 Under subsistence harvest monitoring, six  
34 projects have been funded. With the Hooper Bay harvest  
35 monitoring project, fitting the criteria for continued  
36 funding. Under harvest monitoring design two projects  
37 have been funded. Under stock, status and trends,  
38 specifically distribution abundance and life history of  
39 fish species 10 projects have been funded to-date. With  
40 one project fitting the criteria for possible  
41 continuation of long-term funding. Under delayed  
42 mortality of catch and release funding or catch and  
43 release fishing, no projects have been funded to-date.  
44 The majority of funding has been directed at the issues  
45 addressing fisheries monitoring. To-date 18 projects  
46 have been funded, eight of which have been identified as  
47 fitting the criteria for long-term funding consideration  
48 and then the need to collect long-term data sets. Under  
49 marine ecology no Fisheries Resource Monitoring projects  
50 have been funded. Under water quality and fish  
51 contamination no Fisheries Resource Monitoring projects

00037

1 have been funded.

2

3

4 Conclusion. The project selections to-  
5 date address the vast majority of issues and information  
6 needs identified by the Councils that are with the  
7 jurisdiction of the subsistence management program,  
8 Fisheries Resource Monitoring plan. Not all of the  
9 issues and information have been addressed to-date.  
10 Limited funding available has and will continue to force  
11 the prioritization of funding requests.

12

13 The Federal Subsistence Board approves  
14 the highest priority projects within the available  
15 funding. Some of the issues were outside the  
16 jurisdiction of Office of Subsistence Management and the  
17 Fisheries Resource Monitoring plan. Estimating Yukon  
18 River salmon stock, interception, by-catch by fisheries  
19 adjacent to the Alaska Peninsula fall under the  
20 jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service.  
21 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program can support  
22 these efforts through projects like 02-121 run timing,  
23 migratory timing and harvest information of chinook  
24 salmon stocks within the Yukon River. This cooperative  
25 study will expand the existing database and develop a DNA  
26 data base for chinook salmon refining the ability of  
27 researchers to identify Yukon River Stocks. Other issues  
28 were outside the scope of the Fisheries Resource  
29 Monitoring plan and the Office of Subsistence Management.  
30 The Federal Subsistence Board will not fund projects  
31 involving hatchery, propagation, restoration or  
32 enhancement, habitat restoration protection or  
33 enhancement or contaminants assessment evaluation or  
34 monitoring. For contaminants, programs through EPA and  
35 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services  
36 Office are better staffed to assess the environmental  
37 pollution and contamination.

38

39 For an evaluation of long-term funding  
40 needs, under TEK, TEK projects provide baseline data  
41 giving managers a cultural and historical context for  
42 regulatory actions and should be collected periodically  
43 for important subsistence fisheries. Projects target  
44 identify data needs in a specific area and are typically  
45 limited in duration and focus on the collection of  
46 regional histories of fish species and their subsistence  
47 uses. For subsistence harvest assessment recommendations  
48 have already been provided through the Fisheries Resource  
49 Monitoring Program to the Office of Subsistence  
50 Management establishing guidelines for the need and  
51 frequency to collect subsistence harvest data and  
52 assessment data. Collection of accurate subsistence

00038

1 harvest data is recognized as an essential component of  
2 the effective resource management program. To collect  
3 accurate information, both time series and baseline data  
4 are needed. Time series harvest data are basic estimates  
5 of harvest should be collected annually for important  
6 subsistence fisheries and correspond to the category of  
7 harvest monitoring projects in the issues and information  
8 needs. In-season managers have also stressed the need  
9 for in-season subsistence harvest assessment and are  
10 developing proposals to address this need.

11

12                   One of the existing Fisheries Resource  
13 Monitoring Program harvest projects will be considered  
14 for long-term funding with an annual cost estimated to be  
15 approximately 31,000.

16

17                   Delayed mortality of catch and release  
18 funding. Assessment of scientific studies relating to  
19 the practice of catch and release fishing in western and  
20 interior Alaska was proposed for funding in 2002 and  
21 addressed a Council identified issues but was not  
22 approved by the Federal Subsistence Board due to funding  
23 constraints.

24

25                   Distribution, abundance and life history  
26 of fish species. Understanding the ecology of fish  
27 species important to subsistence users is critical to  
28 protecting the future of the resource. The projects  
29 funded under this category have largely addressed  
30 specific information needs identified by the Council.  
31 One of the existing Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program  
32 projects will be considered for long-term funding, annual  
33 cost was estimated to be approximately 88,000.

34

35                   Under salmon stock assessment, managers  
36 of the subsistence salmon fishery -- management of the  
37 subsistence salmon fishery is the largest issue facing  
38 Federal managers in the Yukon. The most critical pieces  
39 of information are credible estimates of annual return,  
40 both harvest and escapement and development of escapement  
41 goals for stocks of chinook, summer and fall chum salmon.  
42 Obtaining these data has been the single largest  
43 commitment of the Yukon Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
44 plan. Annual estimates of escapement collected over many  
45 years provide critical data for current and timely  
46 assessments of productivity. Escapement goals, habitat  
47 management and subsistence fisheries management optimal  
48 value from investments into escapement assessment is  
49 usually achieved from data sets that span multiple life  
50 cycles, 20 or more years. Eight of the existing

00039

1 Fisheries Resource Monitoring plan salmon stock  
2 assessment projects will be considered for long-term  
3 funding. Annual estimated cost is approximately 583,000.

4  
5 Marine ecology. The Fisheries Resource  
6 Monitoring Program is designed to address priority  
7 subsistence issues within or adjacent to Federal  
8 conservation units. The Federal Subsistence Board  
9 recognizes the importance of the Bering Sea in the life  
10 and ecology of the Yukon River salmon but has decided not  
11 to fund studies outside the Board's jurisdiction. Salmon  
12 research in the Bering Sea is currently being conducted  
13 under other funding sources. Water quality and fish  
14 contamination. The Federal Subsistence Board will not  
15 fund contaminant projects under the Federal Subsistence  
16 program. Agencies mandated to address these issues have  
17 the lead in project development and implementation.

18  
19 The conclusion, project selection for the  
20 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program should ensure the  
21 annual collection and reporting of basic subsistence  
22 harvest estimates for salmon and other important  
23 subsistence fisheries in-season and post-season. No. 2,  
24 periodic collection of reporting of baseline subsistence  
25 harvest information including TEK. Three, the annual  
26 collection and reporting of salmon stock assessment  
27 particularly estimates of escapement for stocks that  
28 support important subsistence fisheries. And, four, the  
29 continued collection of ecological data as funding  
30 allows.

31  
32 How effectively has the Fisheries  
33 Resource Monitoring Program been coordinated with other  
34 fisheries monitoring and studies programs? Well, the  
35 need for continuation and a longer term view of fisheries  
36 monitoring and studies need for the Yukon region has been  
37 a priority for the Eastern Interior, Yukon/Kuskokwim  
38 Delta and the Western Regional Advisory Councils. Given  
39 the limited funding availability for Yukon River  
40 fisheries monitoring, there was a high priority need for  
41 strategic planning. This will encourage financial  
42 partnering and coordination with other fisheries  
43 monitoring and studies program to achieve the greatest  
44 benefit to the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.  
45 Two planning processes in 2002 will help to coordinate  
46 research efforts and identify these informational needs.

47  
48 The Yukon River panel, Yukon River  
49 Restoration and Enhancement Fund. Currently the  
50 restoration enhancement fund is providing 1.2 million to

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1 support the restoration and conservation and enhancement  
2 of Canadian origin salmon. Projects are funded on the  
3 Yukon River, both in the United States and Canada. In  
4 2002 the joint technical committee is initiating a  
5 strategic planning process to begin addressing research  
6 and monitoring needs for Canadian origin salmon stocks in  
7 the Yukon River. The plan will encompass a basin-wide  
8 look at salmon species in the Yukon. Also the AY-K  
9 Coalition strategic planning and science plan, this is a  
10 \$5 million program that will fund planning, design and  
11 implementation of a Bering Sea salmon research program.  
12 This program will be planned and implemented jointly by  
13 the Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
14 Service, National Marine Service, the Bering Sea  
15 Fishermen's Association, the Association for Village  
16 Council Presidents, Kawarek Incorporated and the Tanana  
17 Chief's Council. The strategic planning process  
18 envisioned for developing a monitoring and studies  
19 program will include all life stages and will link fresh  
20 water estrin and marine ecology of Bering Sea salmon.

21

22 Conclusion. It is estimated that the  
23 annual continuation of just the existing projects which  
24 should be considered for long-term funding would be over  
25 \$700 leaving additional funds to address anticipated new  
26 issues and data needs. It is critical that the strategic  
27 framework for the 2004 requests for proposals include the  
28 highest priority issues and information needs identified  
29 by the Councils involve coordination with existing  
30 monitoring programs and data needs identified in the  
31 ongoing strategic planning process. Information from the  
32 strategic planning process may be available as soon as  
33 2004. In the interim we propose to work with the  
34 Councils and in-season managers through the Coordinating  
35 Fisheries Committee to identify the highest priority  
36 information issues and needs.

37

38 I'd be glad to answer any questions at  
39 this time.

40

41 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Any questions, Council.  
42 Thank you, Cliff. If there's no questions we can move  
43 on. We can go on a break and before we go on a break,  
44 without key Council members being here today, Jim Wilde  
45 and Gerald Nicholia, we got some wildlife proposals to  
46 address -- but without the key Council members present, I  
47 would like to offer to the Council that we get into  
48 agency reports with the Office of Subsistence Management  
49 and we start after our break with Tim Jennings and  
50 Council nominations.



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1 MS. WAGGONER: Yeah, the Partners for  
2 Fisheries Resource Program, which is next on the agenda,  
3 from Tim Jennings, maybe first.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Yeah, like I said, if  
6 that's the wish of the Council. But I'd certainly like  
7 to have Gerald Nicholia here, present to listen in on  
8 that report.

9  
10 MS. WAGGONER: Okay.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN MIKE: So that's why I'm  
13 offering to go with Office of Subsistence Management  
14 briefings, Council nominations process. Sue.

15  
16 MS. ENTSMINGER: Sounds good to me.

17  
18 MS. WAGGONER: Sounds good.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Okay, we'll go on a 10  
21 minute break.

22  
23 (Off record)

24  
25 (On record)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN MIKE: We'll call the meeting  
28 back into session. Prior to our break I suggested to the  
29 Council that we go through agency reports with the Office  
30 of Subsistence Management starting with Council  
31 nomination, statewide rural determinations, Federal/State  
32 coordination. And if it's okay with the Council we can  
33 get back under FIS reports under agenda item Partners for  
34 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, Tim Jennings will  
35 be presenting the Partners. And then we'll get into  
36 agency reports, Office of Subsistence Management. I was  
37 approached by the Park Service who wants to present a  
38 short agency report if it's okay with the rest of the  
39 Council.

40  
41 Okay, we'll start off with Tim Jennings.  
42 He'll be presenting Partners for Fisheries Resource  
43 Monitoring Program.

44  
45 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
46 the record, my name is Tim Jennings and I'm with the  
47 Office of Subsistence Management. I'm a Division Chief  
48 there. The briefing before you is material that is being  
49 distributed by Donald, it's not in your book. It's a  
50 one-page briefing entitled Partners for Fisheries

00042

1 Resource Monitoring Program. And this briefing is for  
2 informational purposes only and there's no action  
3 required by the Council.

4

5 I understand that this morning you had  
6 briefing on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program by  
7 Cliff and then also just prior to the break, we went  
8 further into detail on that program. As you know from  
9 your briefing the purpose of the Fisheries Resource  
10 Monitoring Program is to gather information on fish  
11 stock, status and trends, harvest monitoring and  
12 traditional ecological knowledge. It has two purposes,  
13 both to manage fisheries, to provide information needed  
14 by the Federal Board to make decisions and it's also to  
15 protect the subsistence priority on Federal conservation  
16 units in Alaska.

17

18 The partnerships program is a component  
19 of this monitoring program. And it is to support by  
20 funding field staff positions in rural organizations.  
21 It's Federal dollars that is through a cooperative  
22 agreement or a grant process to rural organizations and  
23 it's to help build capacities in rural organizations in  
24 Alaska. And you can see there in the first paragraph  
25 that the purpose of these positions will be to assist  
26 with project development, to identify important  
27 subsistence issues in the region, community outreach and  
28 education, some training and then coordination of  
29 management and project activities. So this has been --  
30 this partners program has been a year, a year and a half  
31 in the making and we're now into the process where we  
32 have, as you see under the schedule, there has been a  
33 competitive bid process from our office. There was a  
34 call for proposals, proposals were submitted and we're  
35 currently nearing the February 28th milestone there on  
36 the schedule where we have an evaluation panel made up of  
37 agency staff evaluating these proposals.

38

39 And we thought earlier this year that we  
40 would come to the meetings being able to inform the  
41 Councils on who the successful bidders were and who the  
42 local organizations would be that would have these  
43 positions. Up to 10 fisheries biologists and social  
44 scientists, a mix of both, 10-total would be hired by  
45 these rural organizations.

46

47 We've identified five geographic areas in  
48 the state, you can see that breakout there right above  
49 the schedule. And in Southeast, there won't be any  
50 positions funded in Southeast until monies are available

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1 from Department of Agriculture.

2

3                   So in the next several weeks, we will be  
4 able to announce the successful applicants, the rural  
5 organizations that will be awarded these cooperative  
6 agreements and then they, in turn, we will development a  
7 cooperative agreement with these organizations. Once  
8 that's done then the rural organizations themselves will  
9 go out with advertising for these positions and going  
10 through a hiring process, which will culminate in hiring  
11 these positions, we hope, by this summer, so that we can  
12 have these new positions in the rural organizations for  
13 the summer of 2002 fisheries season. A note that these  
14 positions are intended to be professional in nature so  
15 these folks are, by the bid process, will have  
16 professionals, either fisheries or social scientists.  
17 Part of their -- part of the overall program is to, as I  
18 mentioned, build capacity and so one of the things that  
19 we hope to do is mentor and to provide training for  
20 others in these rural areas.

21

22                   And then lastly, the cooperative  
23 agreements will be for a period of up to five years.  
24 They'll be annually renewed based upon performance  
25 reviews.

26

27                   That concludes my briefing and if there's  
28 any questions, I'll be happy to answer them. Mr. Chair.

29

30                   CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you, Tim. Any  
31 questions. Virgil.

32

33                   MR. UMPHENOUR: How did you come about  
34 lumping Bristol Bay and the Alaska Peninsula together?

35

36                   MR. JENNINGS: That's a good question.  
37 It's -- there's been some issues between the regions  
38 where they've asked to be separated because they feel  
39 like some of the issues are quite different. Basically  
40 the way it was looked at from the beginning is there was  
41 only so many positions and so much money that could be  
42 distributed around the state and we looked at broad  
43 groupings in order to achieve that. We have 10 Regional  
44 Councils. 10 regions in the Federal program throughout  
45 the state. We don't have enough funding to provide a  
46 position for each of the 10 regions, both fisheries and  
47 social scientists. We've also tried to gear and look at  
48 the need for these positions in terms of where are we  
49 spending our dollars in the Federal Fisheries Resource  
50 Monitoring Program. And as you may be aware, from the

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1 briefing this morning and then this afternoon, a lot of  
2 effort is on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers because of  
3 the status of the salmon runs there being poor and a lot  
4 of need seen for additional information and data  
5 gathering.

6  
7                   So broadly, we'd like to have some  
8 representation statewide but we're going to focus the  
9 efforts in terms of where the needs are, primarily Yukon  
10 and Kuskokwim. So in terms of how it's a -- it's just a  
11 broad clumping of Kodiak Aleutians and Bristol Bay. And  
12 the two Regional Councils, we have a Bristol Bay Regional  
13 Council, we have a Kodiak/Aleutians Council, they had  
14 requested separate funding for those two regions and at  
15 this time the Board has not separated those two regions  
16 out.

17  
18                   MR. UMPHENOUR: So is the person going to  
19 be in Bristol Bay or are they going to be over by Kodiak  
20 or at Sand Point or someplace like that?

21  
22                   MR. JENNINGS: Well, I'm not sure.  
23 Because it depends upon where the proposals come from.  
24 If a proposal comes both, from the Bristol Bay side and a  
25 proposal also comes from the Kodiak/Aleutians side, we'll  
26 have to weigh that and see who has the best coverage,  
27 geographically, if there's support that they've built  
28 into their proposal for both the Bristol Bay and  
29 Kodiak/Aleutian side. That would generally be seen as  
30 more positive because it's broader representation for the  
31 region.

32  
33                   I'm not personally involved in reviewing  
34 and evaluating the proposals that have come in. So I  
35 don't know -- I'm not aware, personally what kinds of  
36 proposals we've received and from which geographic areas.

37  
38                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN MIKE: Sue.

41  
42                   MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank you. I'm  
43 looking at this right now.

44  
45                   MR. JENNINGS: Okay.

46  
47                   MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay, where do they plug  
48 in? There's five people here, additional people to be  
49 hired?

50

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1 MR. JENNINGS: Up to 10.

2

3 MS. ENTSMINGER: Up to 10.

4

5 MR. JENNINGS: Up to 10 positions will be  
6 filled. These will not be Federal employees. So what  
7 you're looking at, I believe, is an organizational chart  
8 of the Office of Subsistence Management.

9

10 MS. ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

11

12 MR. JENNINGS: These new positions will  
13 not show up on the organizational chart because they will  
14 not be hired by our office. This is an outreach program  
15 to build capacity in local and rural organizations.  
16 There will be a funding that will be transferred through  
17 a cooperative agreement to the successful rural  
18 organizations. They, in turn, will hire the people into  
19 their organizations.

20

21 MS. ENTSMINGER: So there's no telling  
22 -- it doesn't have a name who might get -- I mean this  
23 whole process, are these -- I'm having a little trouble  
24 getting this straight, there's a lot of you. Because I  
25 just heard about, I don't know, 12 people introduced  
26 under fisheries and this is going to be an addition,  
27 they're working on something different than those people?

28

29 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, and Ms.  
30 Entsminger. It is part of the Fisheries Resource  
31 Monitoring Program on the org chart, the responsibility  
32 in our office rests primarily with the Fisheries  
33 Information Services Division. I believe it's on the far  
34 right column of the organizational chart. These 10  
35 positions will be managed out of that office.

36

37 MS. ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

38

39 MR. JENNINGS: That division within our  
40 office. And there will be a liaison coordination from  
41 the FIS Division, the Fisheries Information Services  
42 Division with these rural organizations and the people  
43 that they hire. So the link to our office is through  
44 that Division, both to -- they've taken the lead in terms  
45 of the competitive process. Helping to manage the  
46 evaluation of the applicants. The award process through  
47 our -- our contracting office also involves the FIS folks  
48 and then ultimately managing and reviewing the successful  
49 contracts, will primarily go through that Division.

50

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1 Does that help? And so it ties to, in  
2 terms of the program, it ties to the information that  
3 Cliff Schleusner presented to you before the break where  
4 we have this fairly large Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
5 Program geared toward collecting data and information to  
6 support the Federal Subsistence Board in decision-making  
7 and to ensure conservation of fish stocks on Federal  
8 conservation units. And this is one component, these  
9 partnership positions is an additional component to that  
10 overall program. And it largely came about from a  
11 request from many rural organizations and tribal entities  
12 that said, we don't want to see all of this money that is  
13 being -- that has been delegated or to implement the  
14 Federal Fisheries Program put into just hiring Federal  
15 Staff, we want to see more broad capacity building in  
16 rural organizations so that ultimately down the road, of  
17 course, they want to have -- the rural organizations want  
18 to have meaningful input into projects that are selected,  
19 identifying the needs, helping to manage those projects  
20 and ensure that they're implemented appropriately and any  
21 follow-up. So that's why we call it the Partnership  
22 Program.

23

24 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay.

25

26 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Any other questions. If  
27 not we can move into Council nominations. Tim.

28

29 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Mr. Chair, thank  
30 you. This is under agency reports on the agenda, Office  
31 of Subsistence Management. This first item, Council  
32 nominations is not in your book. I have another piece of  
33 information, handout here for you. Okay, you may have  
34 received a copy of this letter or one addressed directly  
35 to you but in case you didn't I wanted to bring extra  
36 copies. The version before you is addressed to Gerald  
37 Nicholia, as the Chair of this council. It's a  
38 transmittal letter followed by a letter to the Board  
39 Chair, Mitch Demientieff from Deputy Secretary of the  
40 Interior, Jay Steven Griles.

41

42 The purpose of this briefing, again, is  
43 for informational purposes only, there's no action  
44 required by the Council.

45

46 Recently a letter was received from  
47 Deputy Secretary Griles concerning membership balance on  
48 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. Mr.  
49 Griles requested that we review our procedures for  
50 recommending Council members to ensure that we are

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1 complying with FACA which is known as the Federal  
2 Advisory Committee Act regarding membership balance and  
3 representation by all affected user groups and,  
4 specifically mentioned subsistence, sport, commercial,  
5 urban, rural, Native and non-Native user groups. And a  
6 copy of this letter, as I mentioned, was transmitted from  
7 the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board and it was  
8 sent to all Council members in all 10 regions.

9  
10 In a larger context, I'll just add that  
11 there is nationwide review of FACA committees that is  
12 being undertaken by the Department of Interior.

13  
14 We realize that the letter from Mr.  
15 Griles may raise some concerns from some of you although,  
16 I think, you're all new members, I don't know how much  
17 you have been aware of this issue, maybe some of you have  
18 been. We want to indicate that our office and the  
19 Federal Board welcomes this opportunity to review these  
20 administrative procedures and processes for Council  
21 member appointments. And as the Chair of the Federal  
22 Board indicated in his transmittal letter, we believe we  
23 have a solid record and that we are complying with the  
24 spirit and intent of ANILCA and FACA.

25  
26 A committee of the Board members or their  
27 designees have been established by the Chair to undertake  
28 a review of our nominations process, including the  
29 selection process.

30  
31 The guiding principles for membership  
32 balance that this committee is undertaking includes the  
33 following three guidelines. That we will keep  
34 subsistence management and the goals of ANILCA, Title  
35 VIII as the primary focus of our procedures to ensure  
36 membership balance on the Councils in accordance with the  
37 Federal Advisory Committee Act. No. 2, we will promote  
38 selection of Council members among those who will work  
39 constructively to uphold the ANILCA Title VIII mandate.  
40 And No. 3, recognize that there are several interests  
41 that are directly affected by the Federal Subsistence  
42 Program and that these interests should be provided an  
43 opportunity to be directly involved in the subsistence  
44 management process.

45  
46 This committee is currently working  
47 developing recommendations back to the full Federal Board  
48 and after review by the Board recommendations and a plan  
49 will be forwarded back to Deputy Secretary Griles. We  
50 will keep all the Regional Councils informed of this

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1 review process and how it proceeds.

2

3 Mr. Chair, that concludes my briefing.

4

5 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Any questions. Thank  
6 you, Tim. The next item on the agenda is statewide rural  
7 determinations. Don Rivard, I think he's out on the  
8 phone so I think we can go ahead with the Federal and  
9 State coordination, Dan LaPlant.

10

11 MR. LaPLANT: Mr. Chairman, members of  
12 the Council, good afternoon, my name is Dan LaPlant. I'm  
13 the liaison with the Office of Subsistence Management.  
14 In your Council book under Tab G on Page 3, there's a  
15 briefing entitled Federal/State coordination and it's  
16 intended to update you on the status of the working  
17 relations between the Federal and the State agencies  
18 relative to Federal Subsistence Management. It's a  
19 briefing for information purposes only, again, in this  
20 briefing we're not requesting any action on your part,  
21 just to inform you of the process that's going on and  
22 update you on the status of this working arrangement. I  
23 just want to emphasize a few things that's in this  
24 briefing paper, point out the process and especially  
25 because most of you are new members. Well, I guess you  
26 all are new members.

27

28 So some of the highlights here, the  
29 interim Federal/State Memorandum of Agreement was first  
30 agreed to by the Federal agencies and the State back in  
31 April of 2000 and was agreed to by the Commissioner of  
32 the Department of Fish and Game and the Chair of the  
33 Board of Fisheries, Chair of Board of Game, and then the  
34 regional directors of the Federal agencies, the Fish and  
35 Wildlife Service, the Park Service, Forest Service, BLM,  
36 BIA and the Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board.  
37 These individuals are referred to in the agreement as the  
38 MOA signatories. These are the organizations that have  
39 agreed to work together and try to make sure that these  
40 two regulatory programs coordinate as much as possible.

41

42 The purpose of the MOA is to establish  
43 guidelines for coordination between the Federal agencies  
44 and the Department of Fish and Game in managing  
45 subsistence resources and the use of fish and wildlife  
46 resources on Federal public lands. With the signing of  
47 this MOA, an MOA working group was established. This  
48 consisted of representatives from the five Federal  
49 agencies, as well as representatives from the State  
50 divisions, sportfish, commfish, Subsistence Division,



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1 Board Support Division and wildlife conservation. This  
2 MOA working group has been meeting and they've been  
3 developing protocols to describe how the agencies will  
4 work together to accomplish their common goals.

5  
6 And I just wanted to go through a list of  
7 these protocols that they've been working on in the past  
8 and kind of update you on the status of each.

9  
10 First of all, there's a subsistence  
11 management information sharing protocol that was  
12 developed and that has recently been completed and it's  
13 ready for the signatories, the heads of the agencies to  
14 sign that protocol. So it's completed to that step and  
15 we're hopeful that that can be signed this spring and go  
16 into effect. Anyway, that was for the subsistence  
17 management information sharing.

18  
19 And there is a Yukon River Drainage  
20 Subsistence Salmon Fishery Management Protocol that was  
21 finalized recently also. And Rod Simmons here today is  
22 going to talk to you in more detail about that so I'll  
23 leave that for Rod to fill you in on.

24  
25 There's a regulatory coordination  
26 protocol that's been identified and the status of that is  
27 that a committee has been identified and a schedule has  
28 been set up to get that protocol moving forward and it's  
29 scheduled for completion in late 2003. And under Tab G  
30 in your book here there's more detailed information as to  
31 how that regulatory coordination protocol is to take  
32 place or how it's going to be developed. It's actually  
33 broken down into four different subparts and some  
34 subcommittees have been identified to work on those.

35  
36 But anyway, under Tab G there is some  
37 more detailed information. There's also a fisheries  
38 regulatory management protocol identified. And the MOA  
39 working group is in the process of drafting a charge, an  
40 outline, if you will, so there's not much progress to  
41 report there yet.

42  
43 There is a statewide in-season  
44 subsistence management protocol and, again, that one is  
45 just getting under way and the MOA working group is in  
46 the process of developing a charge.

47  
48 And then the last one is subsistence use  
49 amounts and that committee had their first meeting  
50 February 7th and that handout that I just passed out kind

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1 of gives you a summary of what took place at that  
2 meeting. So they're just getting going.

3

4 So that's where we are with the  
5 development of the protocols. I'd like to say that  
6 Council members are an important part of the protocol  
7 development process and continued Council participation  
8 is encouraged. And we have had some Council members,  
9 well, for example, in the subsistence use amounts  
10 protocol that is just getting underway, Gerald Nicholia  
11 and Craig Fleener have been coordinating from this  
12 Council and Harry Brower is also on that committee. And  
13 on the regulatory coordination protocol that's just  
14 getting under way also, Bill Thomas from Southeast and  
15 John Hanson are the Council members that have been  
16 working with the agencies to develop that protocol.

17

18 The other thing I wanted to mention is  
19 that the Office of Subsistence Management is providing  
20 additional funding and support to the State in 2002 for  
21 liaison support and Staff support to enhance the  
22 coordination and cooperation between the State and the  
23 Federal agencies and we have cooperative agreements in  
24 place to facilitate this. These cooperative agreements  
25 identify special projects that we have going on. This  
26 year cooperative agreement will be effective the first of  
27 March and it will include a study of Kodiak Island goat  
28 use to help the Board identify customary and traditional  
29 uses for Kodiak Island goats. And there's another study  
30 under way for Cook Inlet fisheries. We have an item -- a  
31 project under this agreement for Yukon Flats moose  
32 harvest assessment and TEK information gathering. This  
33 agreement is one that we have with the State and the  
34 State's primary role here is to support CATG, which we  
35 have another agreement with to actually collect this  
36 information from the villages in the Yukon Flats area.

37

38 So that's an example of some of the .809  
39 agreements that we have going into effect now.

40

41 Mr. Chairman, that concludes my briefing.  
42 However, the representatives of the State that are  
43 present may want to add something to this briefing and  
44 describe the State/Federal coordination process from  
45 their perspective. I encourage you to discuss it with  
46 them as well and they may want to help out with any  
47 questions that you might have.

48

49 Thank you.

50

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1                   CHAIRMAN MIKE: Any questions. Do we  
2 have anybody from the State to add to your briefing?

3  
4                   MR. LaPLANT: Well, there are several  
5 representatives from the State here. Terry Haynes is  
6 here, I don't know if he wants to say anything at this  
7 time about the State and Federal coordination. He's  
8 their main liaison. He might want to mention something  
9 now or later on. Do you have any specific questions?

10  
11                  CHAIRMAN MIKE: Does the Council want to  
12 hear a briefing from the State?

13  
14                  MS. ENTSMINGER: Sure.

15  
16                  CHAIRMAN MIKE: Terry.

17  
18                  MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
19 What do you want to hear?

20  
21                  MS. ENTSMINGER: You have nothing to  
22 add?

23  
24                  MR. HAYNES: Well, I'm actually the one  
25 Fish and Game Staff who has been involved in liaison work  
26 with the Federal program since it started back in 1990  
27 and I can tell you the working relationship has come a  
28 long way. In the early days, obviously it was a learning  
29 process for everyone involved, but it's evolved into, I  
30 think, a pretty good working relationship that is  
31 oriented toward protecting the resources.

32  
33                  We, on the State side, certainly are  
34 looking out to protect the State's interests as much as  
35 we can. Also recognizing that the Federal program is  
36 different, has different objectives, has a different  
37 constituency and that we aren't always going to see the  
38 world through the same glass. But through the memorandum  
39 of agreement that was initialed a few years ago, working  
40 on these protocols that Dan listed for you. All of these  
41 are steps toward identifying where State/Federal  
42 coordination is essential to making things work well and  
43 to minimize complications for the users and to protect  
44 the resources. It's a cumbersome process. And, quite  
45 frankly, without the additional support that we're  
46 getting from the Office of Subsistence Management through  
47 this .809 agreement, the Department simply wouldn't be  
48 able to keep up and it's still a real challenge for us  
49 because we now have, you know, a Federal program that's  
50 duplicating the State's regulatory structure. And, in

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1 order to make this work, Staff to spend time looking at  
2 proposals, looking at the world differently but we're not  
3 being funded to do that through our normal funding  
4 programs.

5  
6 And so, in order to be as effective as we  
7 can, we've worked through the Federal Office of  
8 Subsistence Management to seek some additional funding  
9 and starting March 1st, we will have, at least through  
10 the next year, we'll have the equivalent of -- we'll have  
11 funding to support the equivalent of one full-time person  
12 in commercial fisheries, sportfish, wildlife, subsistence  
13 division and part of a position in the board support  
14 section. And all of this allows the Department to commit  
15 some resources to working on these protocols to trying to  
16 keep the memorandum of agreement moving forward and to do  
17 what we can to make things work. And we'll continue  
18 doing that as long as dual management is in place.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you, Terry. Any  
21 questions from the Council. We'll move onto statewide  
22 rural determination and Don Rivard from our office will  
23 be presenting the briefing.

24  
25 MR. RIVARD: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair  
26 and new Council members. My name is Don Rivard and I'm  
27 the Division Chief for the Interior region. That  
28 includes the Eastern Interior, Western Interior and  
29 Yukon-Kuskokwim regions. First of all, I'd just like to  
30 take this opportunity on behalf of Tom Boyd who's the  
31 head of our office, Office of Subsistence Management and  
32 the rest of the Staff in just welcoming you all on the  
33 Eastern Interior Council, we're really glad to have you  
34 here, we're pleased that you're here on board now and  
35 we've been short for a little while with this particular  
36 Council and it's really gratifying to see you in place  
37 and working. So welcome.

38  
39 I'm going to talk about the statewide  
40 rural determination methodology contract and that's under  
41 Tab G, Page 1 in your book. I've got an update on what  
42 you have in your book that I'm going to present. Again,  
43 this is an information only item for you and there's no  
44 action required at this time. A little bit of  
45 background, the current rural determination methodology  
46 that's been used was developed by the Federal Subsistence  
47 Board with public input in 1991. The initial rural and  
48 non-rural determinations implementing the Federal  
49 Subsistence Management Program were based on this initial  
50 methodology.

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1                   Some concerns regarding this Board  
2 approved methodology were raised initially and continued  
3 with the Board's out of cycle rural determination in 2000  
4 and subsequent reconsideration in 2001 regarding the  
5 Kenai Peninsula. The Board reviews all rural and non-  
6 rural determinations every 10 years per the implementing  
7 regulations of ANILCA. And so we're at that phase right  
8 now of looking statewide at all the rural and non-rural  
9 determinations. In anticipation of this next 10-year  
10 statewide review and to evaluate the concerns raised  
11 regarding the current methodology. The Board directed  
12 our office to contract an independent third-party with  
13 familiarity with Title VIII and the rural and social  
14 economic issues in Alaska.

15  
16                   In September 2001 our office awarded a  
17 competitively bid to the University of Alaska-Anchorage,  
18 Institute of Social Research, otherwise known as ISR.  
19 The contract is proceeding according to schedule with  
20 completion expected in June 2002. Now, there's already  
21 been two phases of this contract that's been completed.  
22 One, has been a comprehensive review of existing  
23 literature and what's called focus groups. ISR recently  
24 conducted eight meetings utilizing these focus groups to  
25 solicit and record the perceptions of the participants in  
26 those groups regarding what distinguishes rural and non-  
27 rural communities for Federal subsistence priority. And  
28 the eight meetings were held in Deering on January 18th,  
29 and this was categorized as a non-road-connected village.  
30 Kotzebue on January 21st, considered a regional hub.  
31 Copper Center on February 4th was a road-connected  
32 village. Kenai City on February 7th, basically a general  
33 city group. Soldotna on February 8th was a tribal group  
34 that met. Ketchikan on February 11th, another urban area  
35 city. Saxman on February 12th, a tribal group. And  
36 finally, Fairbanks on February 15th as an urban area.

37  
38                   The average number of participants in  
39 each of these focus groups has been eight with Regional  
40 Advisory Council members part of that group. They tried  
41 to get at least a third of the members that participated  
42 to be Council members. They didn't necessarily have to  
43 be from the region in which they were meeting and I'm not  
44 sure if any of you were part of that. Were you Tricia?

45  
46                   MS. WAGGONER: (Nods affirmatively)

47  
48                   MR. RIVARD: Okay. Maybe you can speak  
49 to this a little bit later. The representation on these  
50 focus groups was pretty diverse in addition to the

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1 Council members. Other participants included other long-  
2 term Alaska residents, local business people, tribal  
3 officials, dipnetters, recreational hunters, anglers,  
4 teachers and former ADF&G Fish and Game Advisory  
5 Committee members, all with a lot of experience with  
6 Alaska subsistence and rural issues.

7

8 Now the Councils will have some input  
9 coming up in the next year or so. All Regional Advisory  
10 Councils will have an opportunity to review the proposed  
11 methodologies during the regularly scheduled fall 2002  
12 Council meetings and provide your comments at that time.  
13 And when the Federal Subsistence Board meets to consider  
14 your input and other factors they'll have two Council  
15 representatives which are Gerald Nicholia from this  
16 Council and Dan O'Hara sitting in on their deliberations.  
17 That was something that was predetermined, that there  
18 would be at least two Council members to go along with  
19 the deliberations.

20

21 Now, the actual rural and non-rural  
22 determinations. The Board is expected to take one of  
23 three actions in late 2002. Either adopt a new  
24 methodology, modify the existing one or reaffirm the  
25 existing methodology.

26

27 The U.S. Census 2000 data and other  
28 criteria will then be applied to the methodology using  
29 the Board approved methodology. The Regional Advisory  
30 Council recommendations and Board decision-making for the  
31 statewide rural/non-rural determinations are expected  
32 sometime in 2003.

33

34 And that completes my presentation. I'll  
35 field any questions or comments if you have any.

36

37 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you, Don. Any  
38 questions.

39

40 MR. RIVARD: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Devi Sharp from Wrangell-  
43 St. Elias, she approached and wanted to do a briefing.  
44 Devi. While we are waiting for Devi to come up to the  
45 table, Council, one thing we forgot to include in the  
46 agency reports was an agency report from the Yukon River  
47 Fisheries, YRDFA, Jill Klein. If it's all right with the  
48 Council, we can insert the briefing from YRDFA.

49

50 (Council nods affirmatively)

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1 CHAIRMAN MIKE: I see everybody agrees,  
2 okay. We'll find a place for YRDFA to present. Devi.

3

4 MS. SHARP: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
5 Council members. The Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence  
6 Resource Commission met last week in Chitina and then in  
7 Tazlina and they had comments on Proposals 1, 16, 17 and  
8 19 and they will be read into the minutes of the meeting  
9 and I will make some comments on 19.

10

11 Also, I'm happy to tell you that the  
12 final rule to add the five Upper Tanana communities of  
13 Healy Lake, Tanacross, Tetlin, Dot Lake and Northway will  
14 be published this week. For those of you who have been  
15 following this issue, it has taken a better part of a  
16 decade for this to happen. And it should be published  
17 this week in the Federal Register as the final rule and  
18 then they will be officially resident zone communities of  
19 the Park.

20

21 And that completes my presentation.

22

23 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you. Questions.  
24 Than you, Devi. We can continue with agency reports if  
25 it's the wish of the Council and if Jill Klein's ready  
26 for her agency report, she can come up. Are you ready  
27 Jill or do you want to wait until tomorrow? Okay, Jill  
28 Klein from YRDFA is going to give a briefing on YRDFA.  
29 Jill.

30

31 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair and members of the  
32 Council. Again, my name is Jill Klein with the Yukon  
33 River Drainage Fisheries Association. Mainly what I  
34 wanted to do here is to invite members of the Eastern  
35 Interior Regional Advisory Council to the YRDFA annual  
36 meeting which is taking place March 24th through the  
37 27th. And I know there was just a handout given out that  
38 mentioned the YRDFA meeting was the 10th through the  
39 13th, so I just wanted to make sure that you knew of the  
40 dates. We have an annual meeting once a year and we will  
41 be talking about issues that the Regional Advisory  
42 Council are also talking about. One issue, in particular  
43 is customary trade and we will also receive from the  
44 Alaska Department of Fish and U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
45 Service, their season outlook for the upcoming fisheries  
46 season. And members of the Coordinating Fisheries  
47 Committee are planning on attending. And so that from  
48 your -- from Eastern Interior, that's Gerald Nicholia and  
49 Craig Fleener. So at least two people from Eastern  
50 Interior will be there.

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1 But I'd like to invite you and stress  
2 that if you know people in your area or you regions that  
3 are working in fisheries, please let them know about the  
4 meeting and that we'll do what we can to help provide  
5 transportation and lodging for people to join us and it's  
6 in Nenana.

7  
8 And I didn't plan, at this moment, to  
9 update you on any YRDFA activities but if you'd like to  
10 know more about that, if there's time tomorrow I can  
11 brief you or if you have any questions you can ask me as  
12 well.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you, Jill.  
15 Questions. Tricia.

16  
17 MS. WAGGONER: This actually isn't a  
18 question for Jill, but I just wanted to let the Council  
19 know that I'm attending the YRDFA meeting and making a  
20 presentation as part of my job but I wouldn't mind  
21 reporting back to the Council.

22  
23 MS. KLEIN: Okay, thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you, Jill. The  
26 agenda, we have a lot of action items that the Council  
27 needs to deliberate on. We can continue on with agency  
28 reports if it's the wish of the Council and tomorrow we  
29 can start on the proposals and customary trade and  
30 deliberate on those items. What's the wish of the  
31 Council?

32  
33 MR. STEVENS: Yeah, I think that's a good  
34 idea with those other two gentlemen not being here and  
35 who are more likely going to be here tomorrow, I'm sure.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN MIKE: We have a representative  
38 from TCC. And we don't have anybody from RuralCAp. And  
39 Stanley.

40  
41 STANLEY: Well, I don't have anything  
42 really to report on right now but if you have any  
43 questions for me. I'll be testifying on some proposals  
44 tomorrow.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you, Stanley.  
47 We'll get into Native corporations, Regional Village and  
48 Tribal agency reports. If we have anybody from CATG that  
49 would like to give a report to the Council, maybe Jay or  
50 -- Jay?



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1 MR. STEVENS: I don't see anybody here  
2 from CATG.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Anybody from the local  
5 villages, tribal councils? If there's nobody from other  
6 agencies maybe it's a good time for the Council to get an  
7 update from statewide rural determination that Tricia  
8 Waggoner participated in. She could give us a brief  
9 update.

10  
11 MS. WAGGONER: Okay, on February 15th, I  
12 went to Fairbanks for the rural definition meeting. It  
13 was attended by -- there was myself, Ronald Sam from  
14 Alatna, Michael Stickman from Nulato attending for the  
15 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council and there was  
16 Randal Zornke from the Trapper's Association, Bud Buris  
17 and Merele and for the life of me I can't think of his  
18 last name. And one gentleman from the Alaska Native  
19 Knowledge Network. And basically they had a list of  
20 seven questions and would ask the question and we would  
21 go around the table and provide input on the question.  
22 It was questions along the lines of, you know, why do you  
23 live where you live; what makes up -- you know, what are  
24 the characteristics of a rural community, what are the  
25 characteristics of an urban community, how do you define  
26 the outer limits of an urban area, you know. And so  
27 basically it was just over a two period we provided --  
28 about an hour and a half, we provided input and they  
29 summarized, basically, what was said around the table.

30  
31 It was no changing of anybody's opinions  
32 or mind or -- it was just a presentation of, you know,  
33 different opinions from seven different people.

34  
35 So that was pretty much it.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you, Tricia.  
38 Questions.

39  
40 MS. ENTSMINGER: Is this an ongoing  
41 thing that's going to happen or was that a one time  
42 meeting and did you guys have like a little report  
43 or.....

44  
45 MS. WAGGONER: It was a one time meeting  
46 and as far as I understand it they did six or seven  
47 across the state and that will go into the report, which  
48 I don't know exactly when that's going to be coming out.  
49 I don't remember.

50

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1                   CHAIRMAN MIKE: Thank you, Tricia. I'd  
2 like to propose to the Council but that the first thing  
3 tomorrow morning we get into wildlife proposals and make  
4 recommendations and then get into review of customary  
5 trade regulatory language and then we'll get a briefing  
6 from Rod Simmons and his staff. So if it's okay, I'd  
7 like to recess for the day and we can start first thing  
8 tomorrow morning at 8:30.

9  
10                   MS. WAGGONER: Sounds good.

11  
12                   CHAIRMAN MIKE: We're in recess now,  
13 thank you.

14  
15                   (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

4 ) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA )

6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the

8 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby

9 certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 58 contain a  
12 full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME I, EASTERN  
13 INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING,  
14 taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 25th day of February  
15 2002, beginning at the hour of 1:30 o'clock p.m. in Circle Hot  
16 Springs, Alaska;

17

18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript  
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under  
20 my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge  
21 and ability;

22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested  
24 in any way in this action.

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 5th day of March 2002.

27

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31

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33

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 4/17/04 ☐